

Hafa Adai!

3 SMA pilots unable to fly CNMI-Guam since Jan. 11. **PAGE 5**
NMTI finally receives \$300K CW funding. **PAGE 7**

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'Humanitarian parolees' may now apply for resident status

Two of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's signature laws are now being put into action, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday.

The Disaster Recovery Workforce Act makes 3,000 additional CW permits available to repair damage caused by typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu and to prepare the Marianas for future natural disaster.

» **Construction workers applications now open**

The Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents

Relief Act provides permanent status in the Marianas for certain groups of individuals, some 1,039 of whom have been living and working in the islands under humanitarian See STATUS on Page 4

HPO to rebury ancestral remains within the year

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has scheduled the reburial of ancestral remains that have been dug up under its care within this year.

See HPO on Page 4

'Marpi landfill contract expired last October'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five-year contract between the Department of Public Works and a contractor to operate the Marpi landfill already expired last October, according to Procurement and Supply acting director Francisco Aguon.

The contractor, Tangs Corp., has been allowed to continue operating the landfill because the request for proposal process is still ongoing, Aguon said.

The contract with Tang's is worth about \$70,000 per month.

This was learned during

See MARPI on Page 4

Birthday bash for Japan's emperor

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A host of officials led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several members of the

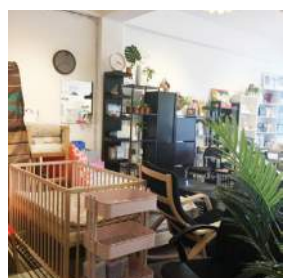
Japanese community on Saipan came together with the Japanese Consulate in the CNMI to celebrate

See BIRTHDAY on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third from right, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, third from left, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and Japanese Consul to the CNMI Kazuhiko Ono, left, join other officials for the breaking of a cask of sake—a Japanese traditional ceremony called *kagami-biraki*—at the 60th birthday celebration for newly-seated Japanese Emperor Naruhito at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort Saipan last Feb. 19. The party was hosted by the Japan Consulate on Saipan.

JUSTINE NAUTA

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Black Wood Furniture is celebrating its first year of operations with a one-day sale tomorrow.

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ASIA

Two passengers taken off a cruise ship because they were infected with a new virus have died.

PAGE 20



OFF THE WALL

A social media sensation dubbed the "Leaning Tower of Dallas" has been born.

PAGE 22



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Local

CUC sets water outages on Monday, Tuesday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled two water service interruptions on Feb. 24 and 25.

On Monday, the water service interruption will affect CUC customers along Isa Drive from Sara Market in Capitol Hill to the Kagman Mobil gas station, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The water service interruption will allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 8-inch water mainline.

As a result of the waterline repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

In the Tuesday water service interruption, it will affect the areas of Garapan Hotel Street, Lower Miha Housing, Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) from CHCC to the Gualo Rai traffic light and from the American Memorial Park to Marianas Eye Institute on Beach Road from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

See CUC on Page 4



HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE

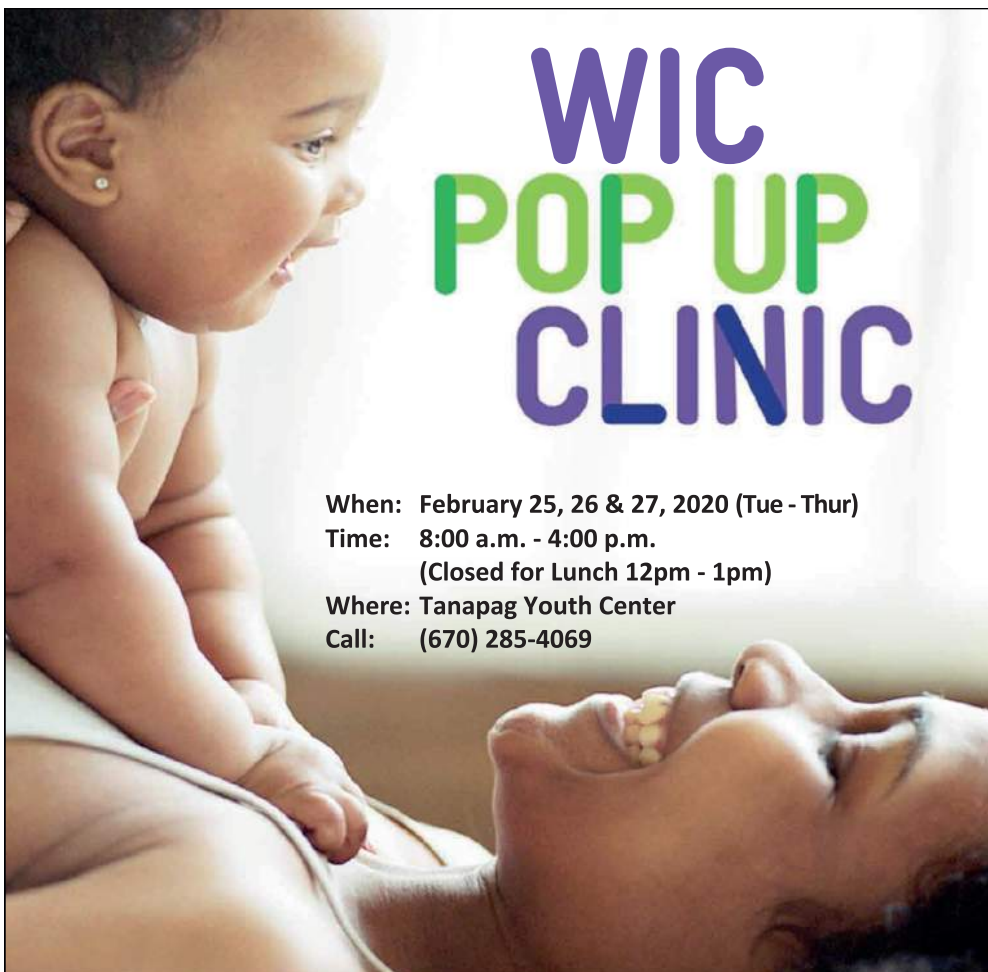
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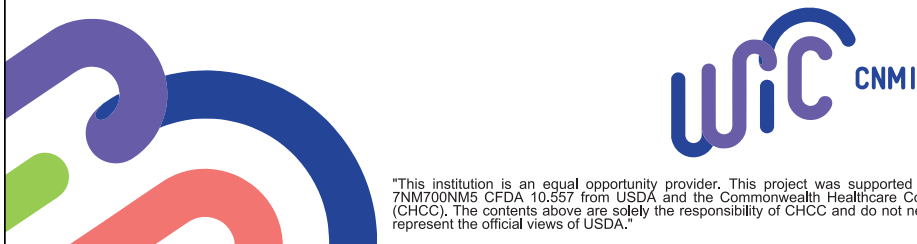
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'Govt is biggest debtor of CUC'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"The CNMI government has the biggest IOU" when it comes to money owed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (Rep-Saipan) during a meeting Wednesday with CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho and other members of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee.

Responding to Guerrero's inquiry, Camacho said that, off the top of his head, the central government owes CUC approximately \$10 million. Add that to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s debt of \$33 million to \$34 million and you have the CNMI government itself as CUC's biggest debtor, yet CUC does not treat the CNMI government similar to other consumers, which Guerrero believes "is not right, nor fair."

The lawmaker, who is a member of the PUTC committee, said he does not see the logic behind the fact that the government owes CUC a huge amount but continues to be treated with kid gloves.

"That's why I am very disappointed [with] this government," said Guerrero, adding that CUC is trying its best to put everybody on the power grid, but the government does not appear to be doing its share by paying off the huge amount of money it owes.

"The government should be treated the same way how other consumers are being treated. That is something that we need to consider. That we've got to force the government to pay its obligations," he said.

In his report to the committee, Camacho said that CUC records a loss on a month to month basis because of its poor collections. "Our collection is the biggest issue right now," Camacho added.

The executive director said that, based on that debt from the central government and CHCC, if CUC has that \$50 million, it would have the means to address several matters that have been deferred. That presumably includes the scheduled maintenance work on CUC's power engines, which are always

being deferred.

PUTC chair Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) said he called for a meeting with Camacho

as the committee wants to look at the current status of CUC's power, water, and wastewater programs.

Peter said Camacho gave them an overview of the status of what's going on with the power plants and certain areas

within CUC.

The lawmaker said the information provided by Camacho will be able to guide

them as a committee in coming up with questions that they need to raise before their next meeting.



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5K bail set for man who ‘head-butted’ police officer

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A \$5,000 bail was imposed Tuesday on a habitual offender who was arrested last week for allegedly resisting arrest and allegedly “head-butting” a police officer in the process.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan immediately remanded Ryan Rabauliman Pua, 34, back to the Department of Corrections and ordered him to return to court on Feb. 27 at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing and on March 12 at 9am for his arraignment.

Assistant public defender Karie

Comstock was appointed as counsel to Pua while assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

Pua was arrested on the evening of Feb. 13 after allegedly “head-butting” a responding police officer and for causing trouble at the Saipan Vegas Resort.

According to court documents, Saipan Vegas had already banned Pua from the establishment on that day but he kept entering and later allegedly challenged an employee to a fight when the employee refused to give him a dollar.

As he was being arrested, Pua

tried to “head-butt” the officer while shouting and demanding to know the reason for his arrest.

Police told the Superior Court that there is probable cause to charge Pua with disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and criminal trespass.

Last month, Pua was released after pleading guilty to assault and battery for which he served 60 days in prison.

Police said that, since his release, Pua has already been arrested four times for various offenses including disturbing the peace, misdemeanor theft, assault and battery, and criminal trespass.

In April 2017, Pua admitted to stealing a black pickup truck at an

STATUS

From Page 1

parole. Applications are now being accepted.

“The announcement from USCIS today is good news for the Marianas,” Sablan said. “I have been encouraging USCIS to make clear to employers that the 3,000 CW permits for construction workers became available as soon as my Disaster Recovery Workforce Act was signed into law on Dec. 20 last year. The application process is like any other CW permit.”

Implementation of Sablan’s Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, enacted on June 25 last year, was more complicated. Because the Marianas permanent resident status the law created is completely new, special forms and procedures had to be developed and approved. While that work was underway, USCIS extended parole for those affected by the law. In that way they could remain legally present, a requirement to qualify for the new permanent status.

A decade of work pays off

“Since my first days at work in Washington, [D.C.] I have tried to help those people who were overlooked, when federal immigration was extended to the Marianas,” Sablan explained. “People who were born in the Marianas and lived here all their lives had not been taken into account when the Consolidated Natural Resources Act put federal immigration in place. My Relief Act fixes that.

“People, who had permanent status

under Commonwealth immigration law lost that status under federal immigration and were placed on temporary humanitarian parole. My Relief Act allows them to get permanent status again, but this time under federal law.”

The Relief Act also allows certain immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and in-home caregivers to gain permanent status in the Marianas. According to data provided to Sablan by USCIS in December 2018 when he was drafting his bill, 1,039 individuals could be eligible for the new Northern Marianas Permanent Resident status.

“Not only does the Relief Act take away the uncertainty that many families have been living with for over a decade,” said Sablan, “but by giving these one thousand individuals permanent status—and the ability to work in the Marianas—they no longer need CW permits. That means their employers are also saved the uncertainty—and the expense—of applying for CW work permits year-after-year.

“Especially now, with the economy struggling, anything we can do to reduce costs for business will help.

“I want to thank our colleagues at USCIS for making clear that the construction worker CW permits are available. Many Marianas employers had been unsure about this.

“I also want to thank USCIS for its work developing the forms and procedures needed to apply for Northern Marianas permanent resident status. It is not easy to create something new and get other the federal agencies to give it their stamp of approval.”

Last November, DPW Secretary James A. Ada informed Aguon about the five members of the evaluation committee for the proposals.

Aguon said that lawmakers when asked why they’re extending the existing contract with Tangs Corp. on a monthly basis, he replied that “there is no other contract to continue the operations in Marpi landfill yet as of this time because of the RFP process.”

“We are just extending it because the RFP is still ongoing,” said Aguon, adding that Procurement and Supply will get the results from DPW as soon as possible.

He said several companies responded to the RFP. “We hope that DPW gets the best contractor,” Aguon said.

He said that, according to their records, the existing contract is for five years for the operation of the landfill.

Complete information about the Disaster Recovery Workforce Act is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-accepting-petitions-under-cnmi-disaster-recovery-workforce-act>.

Details on the application process for the Long-term Residents Relief Act and who is eligible can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-opens-application-period-new-status-long-term-residents-cnmi>. The application window is only open for 180 days.

Workforce Act regulations still needed

Sablan’s U.S. Workforce Act, enacted on July 24, 2018, still remains to be fully implemented. That law extended the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker, or CW, permit program until fiscal 2030. For the first year, 2019, the number of permits was increased to 13,000. Then the number decreases to 5,000 in fiscal 2029, as more U.S. workers enter the labor force, trained with funds paid by employers.

The Workforce Act also puts tough restrictions on employers who fail to hire able and available U.S. workers, skirt U.S. labor law, or try to use foreign workers to undermine what U.S. workers are paid.

Sablan has been agitating the federal administration to issues regulations implementing the U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218, meeting with USCIS deputy director Mark Koumans earlier this year and urging action to clarify “touch-back” provisions in the law in a follow-up letter to Koumans this month. **(PR)**

HHhe does not know whether DPW is going to sustain that five-year period but it will depend on the department as the expenditure authority. “Procurement and Supply is still waiting for DPW,” Aguon said.

In June 2014, then-DPW Secretary Martin Sablan confirmed that the six-month emergency contract awarded to Tangs Corp. to operate the landfill has been extended for three months in the amount of some \$186,000.

Sablan said the extension would give DPW time to issue an RFP, receive bids, and ward a three-year contract for the landfill’s operation.

DPW awarded Tang’s Corps with a six-month emergency contract in December 2013 to operate the landfill for some \$372,000. DPW then approved a three-month extension of that contract and subsequently another five-year contract.

auto shop in Gualo Rai. Pua was sentenced to the maximum term of five years imprisonment, but all suspended except for one year. He was

HPO

From Page 1

According to HPO administrator Rita Chong, they don’t plan on waiting many years to do the reburials and that they are now scheduling the reburials throughout the year.

The remains include all ancestral remains under its care that have been found all over the island. Most will be reburied at the sites where they were found. One of the reburials that will be happening this year is the burial of human remains that were found on the Imperial Pacific Saipan site.

When the site was still a construction area, it wasn’t deemed proper to bury the remains while there’s construction going on but now that construction has moved to the hotel phase, the time appears right to re-inter the remains. Chong clarified that the remains and artifacts that were found are currently kept in a secured, controlled, and clean environment. Chong stated that HPO has no issue with the way IPI is storing them since the HPO facility can’t handle the volume of remains that IPI has.

“They are very proactive...to get

also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, and was placed on two years’ probation, including 100 hours of community service.

the remains re-interred and they’ve been cooperating with us fully,” Chong said.

HPO is going with traditional burials. When the remains are ready to be reburied, HPO will wrap the remains carefully in bandana sleeves that will be placed into a basket that is woven from banana leaves and then they’d be placed back in the ground.

Since HPO doesn’t want to assume that every remains that is found is of indigenous origins, Chong said that an HPO archaeologist has to first inspect the remains and send samples for DNA testing. Once the testing is done and it’s determined to be the remains of indigenous inhabitants, they will then bury the remains traditionally. If not, then HPO will send the remains to where it’s supposed to go.

“It’s important that we respect our ancestors, even if their culture may not be exactly the same as our culture now,” she said. Chong gave an example in which indigenous people are now mostly Catholics, but most ancestors didn’t have that religion, “which is why we opted to bury the remains in bandana sleeves and coconut woven baskets.”

BIRTHDAY

From Page 1

the 60th birthday of newly-seated Emperor Naruhito last Feb. 19 at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort Saipan.

Japanese Consul to Saipan Kazuhiko Ono and his wife, Masako, together with the rest of the Japan Consulate, welcomed all the guests with the hope of further strengthening the ties between Japan and the CNMI.

“I would like to further strengthen the bond between Japan and the CNMI, but maintaining and further strengthening the relationship would not be possible without the assistance of each individual here today,” said Ono. He also asked that everyone in attendance continue to support and cooperate so that the ties between Japan and the CNMI can remain intact and potentially become stronger.

After opening remarks from Ono, Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the assembled crowd gathered in front of the stage for the *kagami-biraki* ceremony—a Japanese traditional ceremony that refers to the breaking of a cask of *sake* during a party or ceremony. The lid of the *sake* barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet and the *sake*, a Japanese alcoholic beverage made from fermented rice, is served to everyone present.

CUC

From Page 2

This will allow CUC’s water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 2-inch waterline located near the Tun Kiku Building in Garapan.

For the safety of CUC men and

It wasn’t all just sushi and sashimi. The Japanese Consulate also prepared several booths to introduce some Japanese products to the guests. The booths included a *sake* booth and a Japanese rice booth. Skymark Airlines also prepared a booth that introduced domestic flights to Japan and Pacific Development Inc. also showcased the Japan Railway Pass.

Emperor Naruhito’s reign officially began on May 1, 2019, after his father, 85-year-old former Emperor Akihito, who reigned for 30 years and became the first reigning monarch to abdicate the throne in over 200 years, surrendered the position in April 30, 2019, due to old age and declining health.

Torres thanked Ono and his wife, Masako, for inviting him to help celebrate the emperor’s birthday and the Japanese investors and visitors for helping building the Marianas tourism industry for the past 40 years. He assured that his administration—through the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Ports Authority—will continue to work with the Japanese tourism, airlines, businesses, and community on “revitalizing this historic and important market.”

“In honor of the Emperor Naruhito’s Reiwa era, we pray for peace, harmony, and prosperity between the Marianas and Japan. Lt. Gov. Palacios and I will continue to work with everyone here to strengthen our historic friendship,” said Torres. “*Gos-erichou arigatu gozaimasu.*”

women working at these sites, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when driving through these areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

MARPI

From Page 1

Aguon’s meeting with the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee last Wednesday at the Legislature. Committee chair Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) had invited Procurement and Supply to provide the status of the existing contract with DPW and the contractor.

With the expiration of the five-year contract, a new Department of Public Works Request for Proposals was submitted in 2019 and is now being routed, Aguon said in an interview after the meeting.

He said DPW, which is evaluating the proposals, will choose which candidate to proceed with the next five-year contract.

3 SMA pilots unable to fly CNMI-Guam since Jan. 11

Three Japanese senior pilots of Star Marianas Air have been unable to operate flights between the CNMI and Guam since last Jan. 11 because U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to grant their advance parole applications.

That delay prompted Star Marianas Air president Shaun R. Christian to ask Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Wednesday if they could help expedite their employees' parole application with USCIS.

Without the ability to use the three pilots in flights into Guam, the company will be unable to maintain the existing level of flexibility in providing medical referral patient transfers and other on-demand charters between the CNMI and Guam, said Christian in his letter to Torres and Palacios.

"We are seeking assistance from the leadership in determining how to move this process to an expeditious resolution and to avoid a disruption to our operations," he added.

The three Japanese, who have CW-1 visa status, fly Star Marianas' twin engine Piper Chieftains.

Christian said the application for advance parole for the three pilots was submitted to USCIS for review and approval last Nov. 22.

Since then, Christian said they made several follow up to the Guam and CNMI USCIS offices. He said the last update that they received late last week was that the applications are under review by the Honolulu USCIS Office. In that time, Star Mariana's last parole issuance expired last Jan. 10.

"To date, we do not know when or if advance parole will be granted," Christian said.

He pointed out that although the three senior pilots are authorized by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Transportation to fly scheduled and non-scheduled flights in the U.S., they are restricted from flying between the CNMI and Guam because of their CW-1 visa status.

Christian said the three pilots need additional parole or advance parole permission from USCIS.

Prior to January 2020, the three were granted parole on a multiple entry basis by USCIS on Saipan. That changed in late 2019. Star Marianas was advised by USCIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to apply for advance parole instead. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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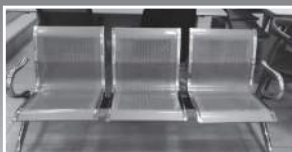
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MCS to host send-off concert for TBMF participants



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Mount Carmel School's Concert Band, under the direction of Julian Greening, gather for a group photo at last year's Tumon Bay Music Festival, where the band took home the silver award in its category.

Mount Carmel School is helping island musicians prepare for the 2020 Tumon Bay Music

Festival with a send-off concert this Saturday, Feb. 22, starting at 5pm in the school's

auditorium. The concert will feature the school's band, led by music teacher and con-

ductor Julian Greening. The concert will also feature the Saipan Pacific Winds Band and the Marianas High School Band, both of which will be led by conductor and long-time collaborator Atsuko Eck.

At last year's festival, the MCS band took home the silver award in its category. The award was a significant accomplishment as it was the first time that the school's band had participated in the festival and for many students in the band, it was their first year learning a musical instrument. The band looks forward to accomplishing even more at this year's festival.

The send-off concert will help all performers prepare for the festival by rehearsing some festival pieces before a live audience. Some numbers included in the concert repertoire will be songs by Stevie Wonder, a medley from Earth, Wind, and Fire, and

highlights from Mount Carmel School's next musical production, The Sound of Music.

School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero—a long-time supporter of the performing arts—is excited for the concert. "Whether it be our plays, musicals, or films, we have done our best with limited resources to support the performing arts. Our school band and this concert are no different," he said. "We invite everyone in the community to enjoy the music and appreciate the passion of these talented musicians."

The school has a long history of hosting the performing arts. The school's historic auditorium is not only where the CNMI Covenant and Constitution were signed, but it has also been home to numerous concerts and shows since the '60s. The school's Theatre Club has produced over 50 shows since its founding in 1996, including last year's production of the Broadway hit Mamma Mia!, which featured Greening and members of the MCS band. Recently, the school also announced plans to build a state-of-the-art performing arts hall for the Saipan community.

Admission for Saturday's concert is complimentary. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcar-melsaipan.com. (PR)

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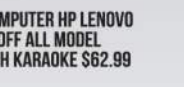
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NMTI receives \$300K CW funding

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institution can stay afloat and continue opera-

tions after finally receiving \$300,000 in partial funding from the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program last Feb. 18

According to Ross S. Manglona, director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development of NMTI, the amount would help NMTI finish the quarter for its instructional programs. As far as funding expectations is concerned, he said NMTI has no comment on the is-

sue as providing any figures at this point would be highly presumptuous.

Manglona stated that, although the institution received a bit less than the typical allocation amounts that are received quarterly, they are still exceptionally grateful to the Torres administration for disbursing the CW funding and taking the lead on this issue.

It was earlier reported that the NMTI only has enough

money to last this February and would close by March. At that time, NMTI was still waiting for the government to approve its budget for fiscal year 2020.

Manglona stated that NMTI board of trustees is currently looking at various strategies on how it can sustain operations. "We intend on finding a common ground that fully complies with Torres' directive without compromising our educational

mandate," said Manglona. "We continue to stand behind previous action displayed by this administration. Both the governor and lieutenant governor have demonstrated their willingness to compromise and find amicable solutions to highly important NMTI issues. ...At this point, NMTI is focusing more of its attention toward finding creative ways to reduce cost without sacrificing the education of students.

CUC's Camacho won't recommend work-hour cut

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed Wednesday that he will recommend to the CUC board of directors not to reduce the work hours of CUC employees—at least for now.

Camacho, in an interview, said they are going to review their expenditures and see where they can trim a little bit for the time being and make some adjustments. By making the necessary adjustments in other areas of operations, Camacho believes that CUC will be able to keep CUC staff on the regular 80 hours. "But this is something that I'm going to discuss with our board of directors and I will be able to do that soon," he added.

Camacho said that keeping the utilities infrastructure humming along is important and requires close monitoring on a day-to-day basis.

Camacho said they are still reviewing their finances, but that they are going to make all efforts not to go into austerity.

In last year's austerity measures, CUC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority were the only autonomous agencies that did not cut the regular 80 work-hours.

CPA recently announced a

plan to implement 72 work hours effective March 1. Government employees will have a 64-hour work schedule starting March 15.

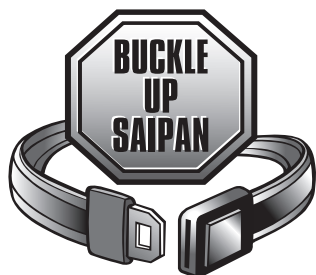
Camacho attended Wednesday's meeting with members of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications to update them about operational matters at CUC.



Camacho

PUTC chair Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) said he wants to take a look at the current status of CUC's power, water, and sewer programs. Peter said he wants Camacho to give them an overview of the status of what's going on with the power plants and certain areas within CUC.

The lawmaker said this will committee members answers to their questions and the information they need before their next meeting.



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Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents in the next several days.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, surf heights of 9 to 11 feet along east facing reefs will maintain dangerous and frequent rip currents well

into next week. A long-period northwest swell will also support stronger and more frequent rip currents along north and west facing reefs.

Dangerous and frequent rip currents will be occurring in east, west, and north facing reefs of the Marianas through Friday afternoon on west and north facing reefs. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore

into deeper water.

The public is being advised that strong rip currents will be life threatening along east, west, and north facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Swim out of a rip current by swimming parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (PR)



D&Q RENEWS BIN ADOPTION

D&Q Saipan Co. Ltd. general manager Max Kretzers and staff present their annual renewal of sponsorship to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's rangers for the Adopt-a-Bin Program at PauPau Beach, which is designed to encourage recycling and keep plastics and aluminum cans from entering the ocean.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hafa Adai And Tirow

REVEREND FRANKLIN GRAHAM



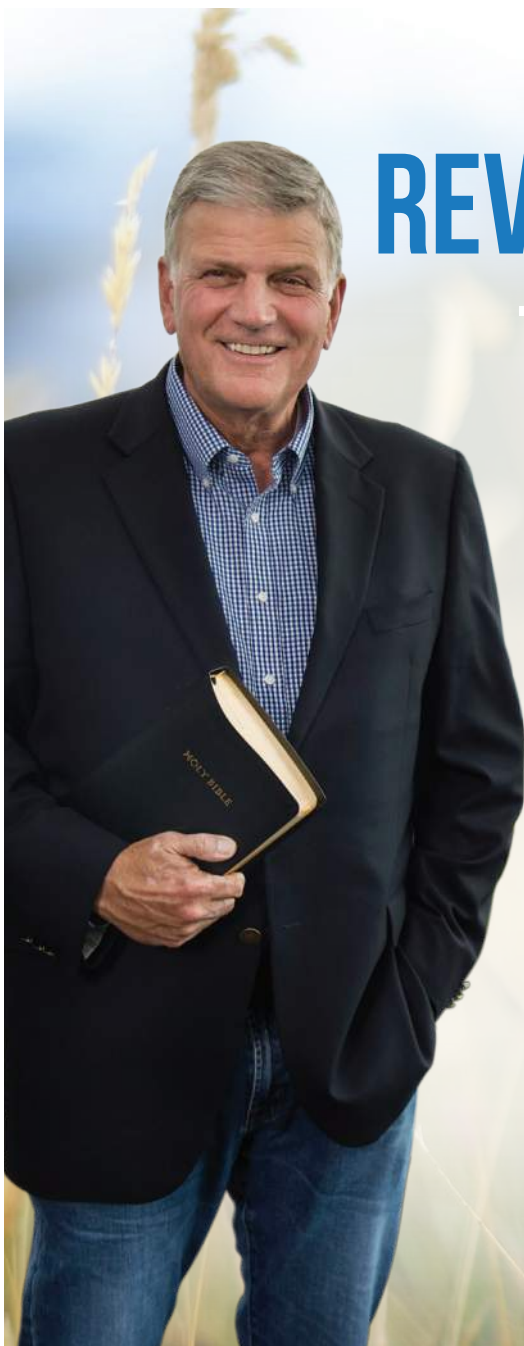
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and all Festival of Hope participants, welcome to Saipan.

The work of our Lord is never ending. Your presence in our island amplifies the word of our Lord that we are all one in spirit.

On behalf of the people of Saipan, Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, and Ghilisow for being here to be with us as we continue to rebuild our island from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and strengthen our faith and lift our spirits as our Lord encourages us to do. For your kindness and the quick response of Samaritan's Purse, we can never thank you enough for the generosity we received in our time of greatest need.

David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan & Staff





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AG'S Cup to be held on May 1, 2020

Attorney General Edward day that the 36th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held on Friday, May 1, 2020, at 9:30am at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.



AMBYTH DONATES TO KARIDAT

Ambyth Shipping Micronesia Inc., represented by ship captain David and other Ambyth employees, turn over a \$1,325 donation to Lauri Ogumorro, executive director of Karidat Social Services and Commonwealth Health Care Corp. board chair, as the company's donation for Guma Esperanza, Karidat's women's shelter.

NEIL FAMA

"I am proud to present this year's Attorney's General Cup Speech Competition... to allow our high school students to debate a topic of... importance to our community. I invite our students and community to witness such great talents from our schools," said Manibusan.

This year's topic focuses on abortion. The United States Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* is a landmark decision issued in 1973. The high court ruled as unconstitutional a Texas law that banned abortion unless to save a women's life. The high court held that a woman's right to an abortion was implicit in the right to privacy protected by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The decision effectively legalized abortion across the United States.

Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, abor-

tion was illegal throughout most of the United States. The high court's decision has proved to be contentious, dividing Americans on the issue of whether women should have the right to choose to have an abortion. After *Roe v. Wade*, many states enacted state laws placing restrictions on abortion rights.

This year the Supreme Court will take up a Louisiana case that requires doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital within 30 miles of the facility where the abortion is performed.

Nine high schools have been invited to participate in this year's competition. The high schools include Dr. Rita Inos High School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High

School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian High School, Saipan International School, and Kagman High School.

The public is invited. For more information on the competition, contact Carla T. Hocog or Andrea Manese at the OAG on Capital Hill at 237-7500. (PR)



Happy 10th birthday, Elkee Babauta! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our Office on Capitol Hill, building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2019: \$187,932.00
The Available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement program, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and community corrections programs, Drug treatment and enforcement programs. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Crime victim and witness program (other than compensation).

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2019: \$522,376.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

Amounts Available:
 Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$462,376.00
 Underserved Crime Victims: \$60,000.00

STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (VAWA) FY2019: \$556,987.00
 STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.
 Allotted agencies mentioned below, **must** submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** of which at least 10% is to be distributed to culturally-specific community based organizations; Victim Services = \$105,132.00; Culturally Specific Services = \$18,566.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$43,399.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,097.00.
- Law Enforcement** \$102,966.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,281.00. Total for law Enforcement: \$139,247.00
- Prosecution** \$102,966.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,281.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,247.00.
- Courts** \$20,035.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$7,813.00. Total for Court \$27,848.00
- Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas, \$83,548.00

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2019: \$58,679.00
 The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP), created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

**All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 06, 2020.
No application will be accepted after the deadline.**

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
 Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing gncamacho222@gmail.com, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

Indirect Cost are applicable to certain government entities.

/s/ Hon. Alejandro C. Castro
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ George N. Camacho
Executive Director, CJPA

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RFP20- RED004
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 24, 2020

“LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN”

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M ²
(West of Main Road - Oceanside)		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance	30,738
003 A 26	Vacant Land	109,003
Group of Properties West of Main Road:		374,041
(East of Main Road - Inland)		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
*NOTE: The swimming pool property will be available at the end of the Year 2021.		
003 A 18	18 Hole Golf Course	905,784
008 A 01	Club - House	30,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
Group of Properties East of Main Road:		1,075,180
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:		1,449,221

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. A non-refundable administrative processing fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: **Department of Public Lands.**

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **“RFP20-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI, SAIPAN”**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to **Department of Public Lands** for the amount of US\$2,500.00 (a non-refundable fee required upon submission of proposal). Proposals must be sealed and marked **“RFP20-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI, SAIPAN”**. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the following address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
 P.O. Box 500380
 Saipan, MP 96950
 Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
 Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
 Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a “Question and Answer” format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

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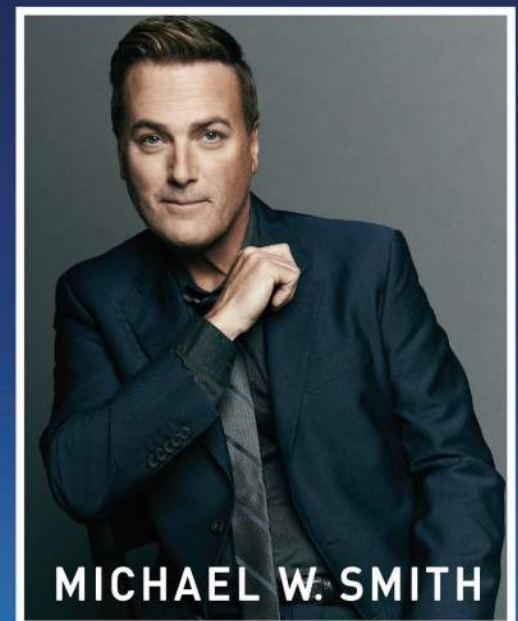


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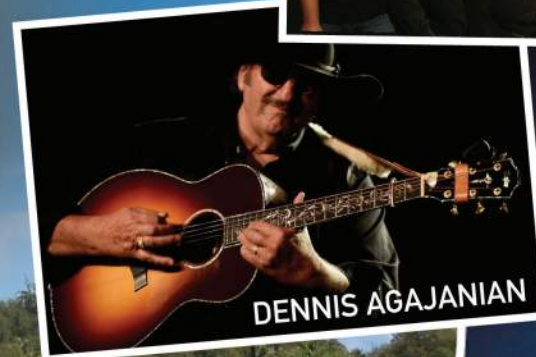


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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

'Infodemic' is another coronavirus threat

Chinese President Xi Jinping has declared a "people's war" against the coronavirus. But as Aeschylus, the ancient Greek playwright, apocryphally said, "In war, truth is the first casualty."

And so it seems in China, epicenter of the epidemic, where truth and trust are in as short of supply as surgical masks reportedly are.

The ability of international institutions and other governments to rapidly respond to the outbreak was compromised by China's initially opaque response to the virus. The relative reticence of Xi to take the lead made matters worse, which is perhaps why the Chinese president has more publicly reemerged after his conspicuous absence at the start of the virus crisis.

Beijing recently released a speech Xi made to the normally secretive Politburo Standing Committee in which he claimed that he had "issued demands about the efforts to prevent and control" the virus on Jan. 7, weeks before he publicly spoke about the outbreak that would soon break beyond China's borders to become a global health concern. But instead of quelling the controversy, the speech has only led to more questions about the alacrity and efficacy of China's response, which is in keeping with Beijing's authoritarian approach.

The party's "campaign of repression and censorship in this new health crisis is not an anomaly. It is the rule," Prachi Vidwans, a Human Rights Foundation research associate told an editorial writer in an email exchange. When the virus emerged, "the government responded with opacity, hoping to prevent bad news from affecting its approval rating and its economy," Vidwans said. Of course, both have happened: Even in an increasingly Orwellian China, dissent—especially after the death of a doctor who was reprimanded for reporting the disease early on—has emerged. And China's economy has been hit—just as others will be, given the nation's outsized economic role. Indeed, Apple, which announced on Monday that the virus would take a bite out of revenue, won't be the last multinational firm hit by the global crisis.

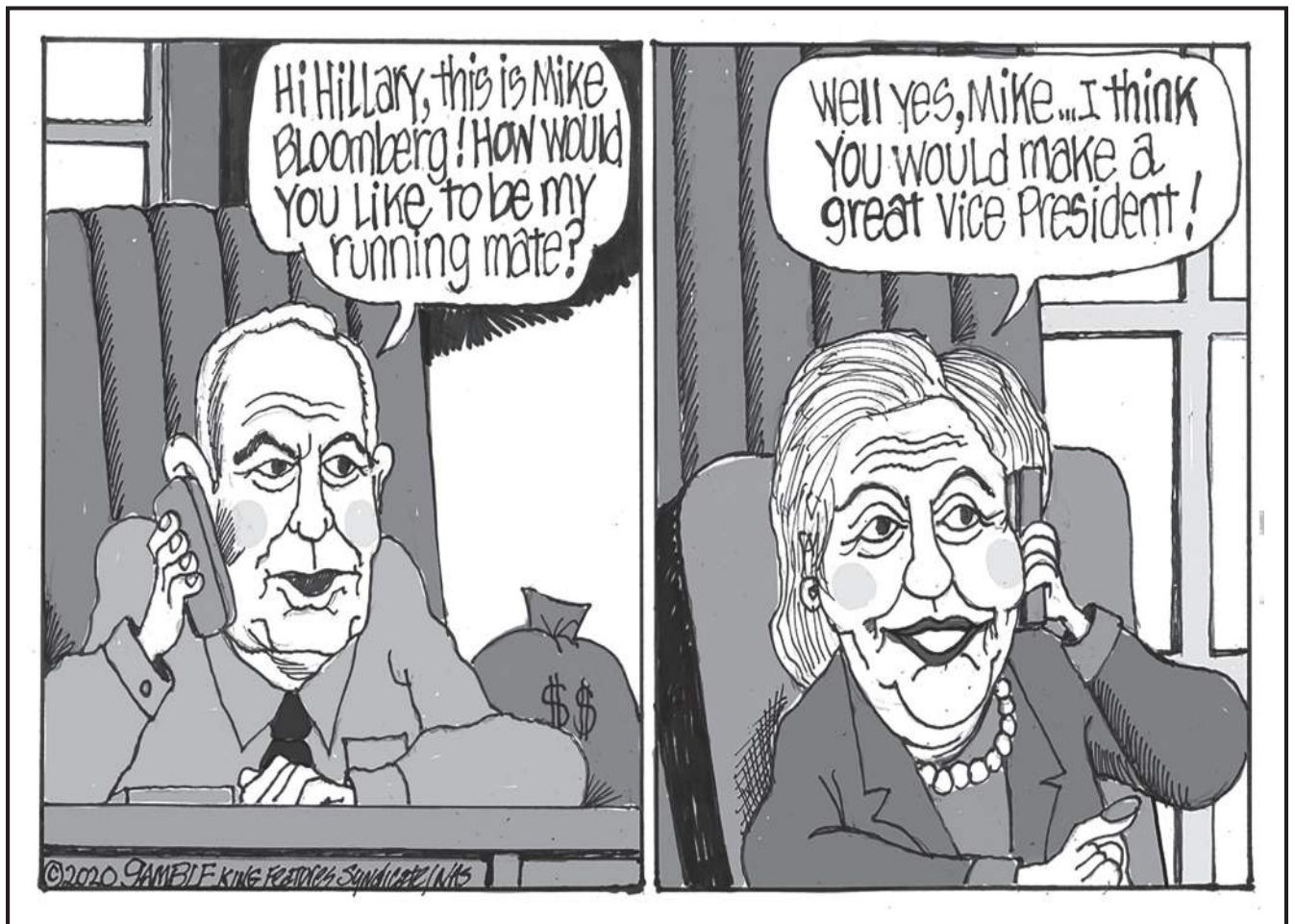
"This is a case where you can see how authoritarianism elsewhere affects you, even if you live in a free and democratic country," Vidwans said.

Including America, which should be the global exemplar of transparency.

That task would be difficult in any circumstances. It will be particularly challenging in what the World Health Organization calls an "infodemic"—which the WHO describes as "an overabundance of information—some accurate and some not—that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it."

America's world-class scientific community can combat this infodemic with data-driven conclusions. Everyday people can help, too, by arming themselves with legitimate information and not allowing xenophobia to exacerbate the crisis. And given their legislative and publicity platform, lawmakers have a special responsibility to focus on facts, which is why it is so disappointing that Sen. Tom Cotton

See 'INFODEMIC' on Next Page



February named National Attack PSS Month

Arson scum
Over the last few years there have been an alarming number of arson fires in San Antonio. Obviously there is a pyromaniac living there. He/she may be a homeless person or a resident that just likes to watch the destruction. How many more structures will he get away with destroying before the enforcers go all out, find this scum bag and throw him under the jail for a decade or two? This is a tiny island with plenty of loose lips. It should not be that difficult to find and squash this vermin. Someone needs to be held accountable to track him down. Fire Department? Police? Bounty hunter?

Now he has trashed Hopwood Middle School just as they were trying to put it back together (finally) after the Yutu devastation. It is so disappointing that some crab mentality loser puts our student's reconstruction project back months and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Perhaps a reward for capture and successful prosecution would work. I'll put a Franklin C-note into the pot. If we can get 30 or 40 others to kick in maybe we can get some action. Perhaps PSS cares enough to kick in \$20,000 of the funds donated to them for free by the feds and the CNMI government?

PSS shortsighted

The burglary problem is not a new one at PSS; it has been hitting them regularly for years. Now they publically reach out to an already understaffed DPW/DPS to help them protect the schools. That is not the rational solution. Over the years PSS has lost hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars to burglars, insider sneak thieves and other forms of pilfering. Additional lighting at all 20 schools in the system is a good idea. But, remember to pay your light bill.

For an agency that drags in literally tens of millions in funding every year, it is shameful that they can't find suitable funding for basic simple security measures to protect the schools with armed security guards 24/7. Yes, 24/7. After school hours and on the weekends show the highest incidence of burglaries. Hire your own professionals. Put them on staff and make sure you hire trained professionals, not your cousin-in-law. Send them regularly for professional development training. You seem to have unlimited funds to send other PSS staff flying all over the place for that purpose. Give the guys with the badges a shot at those air miles and hotel frequent customers giveaways—and the training while they are at it. There should be at least two guards per small school and proportionally up to six at the really big, spread out campuses. For good measure add a trained attack/guard dog and handler to the security team at each school whenever classes are not in session. There, now, you have created a number of new jobs and saved your department and the taxpayers millions. Simple eh?

SOUR GRAPES

By **BRUCE BATEMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



To not spend a few tens of thousands on security personnel and lose millions to theft and vandalism shows a serious lack of prioritized decision-making at the top of PSS and its board. Pitiful in fact.

National Kick PSS Month

In the first week of February, Hopwood Middle School had 21 of its temporary classrooms burgled (company security guard asleep?), Marianas High School was likewise broken into, as was Garapan Elementary. Dandan Middle School had an "attempted" break-in. Pang of remorse and guilt at the last minute or an intervention? I didn't see the details. Whatever, it rounds out the week nicely. So what will the tally be for February by month's end? Maybe we can have a big party down by the beach, barbecue, beer, a band and set little floating masked burglars adrift on the lagoon with lighted candles inside should we get up to 25 break-ins in one month.

Why would we designate a special month to kick PSS? Because they deserve it for not taking the necessary precautions? The lack of preparation is so blatantly visible it almost seems as if they want to have these schools vandalized and burgled. Of course they don't really want that; it just looks that way.

Pride might help

A company that unsuccessfully provides service to 90% of its customers wouldn't last very long. A private school that delivered graduates to community colleges with a 90% rate of needing remedial reading, math and science skills before entering that college wouldn't last very long either. That, however, is the result of a CNMI PSS education, according to an uncharacteristic disclosure by NMC a few years back. Don't blame the PSS high schools for this miserable state of affairs, or the middle schools, or the elementary schools or the Kindergartens... but you can blame PSS for sys-

See FEBRUARY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Effects of coronavirus

We've been inundated with news of the coronavirus that threatens the entire global community. There's also norovirus that popped up in Louisiana, recently. The former affects the lungs, the latter the tummy.

Reportedly there's the question of the origin of the deadly virus. Screw that query: it has forced the community of nations to cut budget every which way possible!

Goes to show how closely economies have merged, signaling flags when a country's foundation is derailed. Imagine how it could simply ruin fragile island economies like the CNMI. It triggers concerns among the populace and legitimately so. The new term here is "cut" and so we see folks with machetes all over.

It's a global phenomenon that has forced cancellation of travel to most destinations worldwide. Thus, the adverse effect on tourism here as we quiz what's coming down the pike. It's a phenomenon that took us by surprise given the breadth of its instant spread as a contagious and fatal disease. Next: how long would this condition last here?

The unfolding phenomenon forces critical review how funds are earmarked throughout the NMI government. Obviously, CHC and PSS factor as top agencies that must be funded. If there need be cuts somewhere, the only option is to carry it out to stay

FEBRUARY

From Page 12

temic failure to produce even minimal results for the vast majority of its clients. You have had those students in your clutches for 12 long years by the time they graduate. The least you can do is to send them off into the big wide world able to read, write, and do basic math. You have some stellar scholars that come out of the public schools with a top-notch education and skills good enough to get a few of them into first tier universities in the United States, but the other 90% aren't even prepared for a trip to the supermarket without running into reading and math deficiencies.

Here is one possible answer. Privatize the school system. Get the government completely out of it. Use a charter school system as many areas have, or use private schools with government subsidies but no government input whatsoever on curriculum or on administrative decisions. You can even keep many of the teachers as long as you rigorously weed out the bad ones. Government has no provisions for making anyone responsible for end results. Private schools must have that individual teacher and administrative responsibility built in or they will not get the job done. They do get the job done because teachers and administrators are held personally responsible. If not privatization, then at least revamp the system so that non-producers can be shown the door.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

■ ■ ■

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

—Aristotle

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and starting on the first one."

—Mark Twain

'INFODEMIC'

From Page 12

(R-Ark.) took to Fox News to further the already-debunked theory that the virus was potentially connected to a biosafety lab in Wuhan, China.

Geopolitics are already strained with the new virus, and conspiracy theories will only solidify a drift that may make it even harder to garner Chinese cooperation. Cotton, and others not operating with substantiated facts, should be more responsible.

The U.S. cannot control China's authoritarian tendencies.

It can, however, offer a model of transparency and truth that the world needs now more than ever.

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

afloat while meeting vital public services.

Beyond current fund source it simply means we must look for additional sources of revenue to meet mounting obligations. Otherwise, must sharpen machetes to cut expenses every which way possible to stay financially poised.

It requires strong resolve to muddle through thick and thin. If it means cutting across the board as suggested recently, then it is the appropriate paradigm to take. It's obvious the decline in revenue so it is timely to prepare a plan to begin cutting excess baggage.

More \$\$\$

The question to permit internet gambling is the focal point that merits support. We already have allowed the industry into our living room. So why not go for the full 10 yards?

It means more money for vital municipal government needs. It means leaving state budget alone for NMI-wide needs.

Excuses promulgated in recent days are what I call "feel-good" rationale that completely misses reality check. Must support it favorably so there is money to help patients, students, and others where the state government fails their needs.

It's a matter of need, not luxury. Either we do it right or repeal the gambling law altogether. If it is ignored to guard irrational excuses, how else do we raise much-needed funds beyond shallow pontification? Stand up and be counted controversial or otherwise!

Bad times

A shift in administration in the early '60s (Navy-Interior) imposed hardship among families here. There were major job losses and displacement that forced a return to the land and sea.

There wasn't any transition period. It was a must return to traditional lifestyle of farming and fishing, a difficult change after relying on dad's inconsequential paycheck. It showed what happened to a governmental entity whose future is regurgitated, time and again, in uncertainty.

I recall the NMI wanted something beyond its place among administrative districts under the TTG. There was even the aspiration for reintegration with Guam founded on dollar an hour

No, the Harvey Weinstein verdict isn't a judgment on #MeToo itself

By **STUART GREEN**

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Closing arguments have now been made in the rape and sexual assault trial of Harvey Weinstein, the jury has been instructed and in the next week or so, we'll have a verdict from the seven men and five women charged with deciding the case. The outcome, however, cannot be predicted with any certainty. Based on accounts of the evidence offered in the media, a conviction, an acquittal or a hung jury all seem like plausible outcomes.

For some observers, that uncertainty is likely to produce anxiety. This trial, some commentators have said, is about the fate or more than just one man. It is about the fate of the #MeToo movement itself. After all, it was revelations about Weinstein in October 2017 that sparked an almost instantaneous worldwide movement, with Weinstein appearing as the archvillain, and his accusers among its heroes.

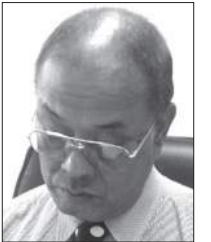
Thus, the reasoning goes, if prosecutors are able to obtain a conviction of someone as powerful and prominent as Weinstein, the #MeToo movement will be vindicated; it will have all been worth it. But if a conviction proves elusive, whether because of an acquittal or a hung jury, then a powerful social movement will be, if not stopped in its tracks, at least slowed.

Let me suggest that everyone take a deep breath here.

Although the #MeToo movement was indeed triggered by the revelations of Weinstein's alleged misconduct, it has long since transcended the Weinstein case. Whether Weinstein is convicted or acquitted, the #MeToo movement will remain a powerful social force. There is no going back on the social changes it has wrought. Whatever the trial's outcome, men in positions of pow-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

minimum wage. It was shot down by Guam.

In 1972, we were given separate negotiations with the U.S. that led to a permanent relationship. There was hope for a brighter tomorrow. Slow as it may be upon its founding, most are satisfied with what we have today.

At least we're able to generate revenue that is spent right here at home. In the process, we should embrace the responsibilities of self-rule so we learn what the concept requires from each of us.

No option

As much as I hate local staple food, had to chew and swallow it to make it through the day. Rice was a scarcity then. So we had to settle for what we had at the farm or garden behind the house: bananas, taro, sweet potatoes, and tapioca.

The only option was make do with what little we had at home, including eating rice and salt or bland staple food without meat or fish. The only option is "no option." A lot of families had to endure without decent meals. We weren't alone!

I remember dad making about \$.16 an hour some 59 cents less than his previous income. With a large family it meant farming to supplement family sustenance and other means of food gathering.

We did gardening, including raising farm animals like chicken, pigs, and goats. We would butcher or slaughter one for family consumption. We learned the essence of self-support, a lifetime lesson.

er will (or certainly should) think twice before propositioning their subordinates or making sex a quid pro quo for professional advancement; and either way, it will still take courage for accusers to come forward and testify against their alleged assailants.

The success of any given criminal prosecution will depend on the skill of the lawyers and the investigators, the perceived credibility of witnesses, the attractiveness of the defendant, and the inner dynamics of the trial jury, among other factors.

If Weinstein is convicted, his prosecutors will be celebrated, their strategic choices (including the decision to bring the particular charges they did, rather than less serious charges) applauded. If he is acquitted, there is little doubt they will be criticized. Such an outcome may even affect the decision of Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance to seek reelection.

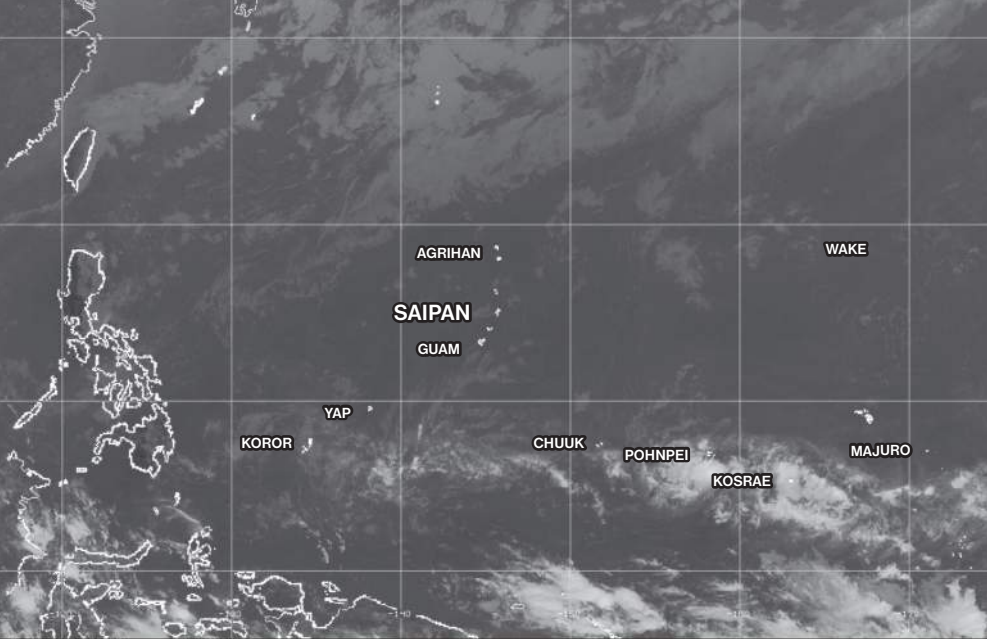
Might other women be less likely to come forward to testify if Weinstein is acquitted? Perhaps, but I don't think so. Deciding to testify about such traumatic experiences is never going to be easy, and it will not get any easier if Weinstein is convicted, either.

The outcome of the trial will obviously have a special significance for Weinstein himself and for the women directly harmed by his alleged acts. The same can be said for the others directly involved in the trial, including the lawyers on both sides, the judge, and the jurors. For the rest of us, the verdict should certainly be a matter of interest, but no more than that. Whatever the outcome of this particular trial, our social order has long since been swept up and rearranged by the broader waves of #MeToo.

Stuart Green is a distinguished professor of law at Rutgers Law School and author of the book Criminalizing Sex: A Unified Liberal Theory.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	74°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:29 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Deep-layer high pressure to the north and northeast will support a mostly dry and breezy northeast trade wind flow for at least next couple of days, with winds likely peaking over the weekend. A brief period of weaker winds and increased showers is possible around the middle of next week before winds increase again.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Windy	84° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	73° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	52° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	80° / 69°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 69°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	72° / 52°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Sunny	70° / 54°	
Miami	Showers	77° / 63°	
New York	Sunny	36° / 29°	
Osaka	Rain	63° / 45°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 34°	
Rome	Sunny	63° / 39°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	50° / 27°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	46° / 27°	
Tokyo	Showers	63° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	40° / 26°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:29 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.30	
7:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.64	
1:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.99	
5:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.61	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:50 AM	4:23 PM	-
Saturday	5:37 AM	5:15 PM	-
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:06 PM	-
Monday	7:01 AM	6:54 PM	-
Tuesday	7:38 AM	7:42 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6						
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1		OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4		TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3	
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

Troops from three nations train on Tinian to respond to disaster



U.S. Air Force Capt. Joshua Craig, 36, a medical officer who maintained nuclear-capable cruise missiles earlier in his career, stands near the atomic bomb pits on the island of Tinian, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020. The site is where Fat Man and Little Boy were loaded onto the B-29 bombers that attacked Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

SETH ROBSON/STARS AND STRIPES

By SETH ROBSON
STARS AND STRIPES

TINIAN, Northern Marianas—The ground is rock hard on the island where American warplanes armed with atomic weapons set off to bomb the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Seventy-five years later, about 70 U.S., Japanese and Australian troops camped side by side in this uncomfortable location, honing skills they'll need to save lives next time a disaster strikes in the Pacific.

That happens often in this part of the world. In 2018, for example, Tinian bore the brunt of Super Typhoon Yutu, which brought sustained winds of 180 mph that caused widespread damage and killed a woman on the island on Saipan.

The troops, doing humanitarian and disaster response training that's part of the larger annual Cope North exercise, set up their headquarters not far from the spot where atomic weapons were loaded onto the Boeing B-29 Superfortress bombers *Enola Gay* and *Bockscar*.

"They loaded the bombs here," said Air Force Capt. Joshua Craig, 36, a medical officer with the 18th Air Medical Evacuation Squadron out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as he stood beside a wind-battered tent on the island Tuesday.

He has been using a walkie-talkie to help arrange flights off Tinian for role players with simulated injuries and medical issues.

Craig is eager to check out pits on the island where the atom bombs, known as Fat

Man and Little Boy, were loaded onto the B-29s bound for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he said.

The Pittsburgh, Pa., native started his military career as an enlisted airman maintaining cruise missiles with the 2nd Munitions Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and still proudly wears a missile-shaped patch.

"For us this is where it all began," he said. "We are all aware of the history of it. Without that our career field didn't exist."

The troops training on Tinian were working out of a temporary camp and sleeping in one-person tents anchored to sandbags.

The ground on the island is too hard to hammer tent pegs into, said Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Melissa Nelson, who is leading operations and security there during the exercise.

The troops' mission is to keep the airfield there open, she said. That involves air traffic controllers from the Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force guiding planes to and from the runway and security forces making sure nobody strays into the path of an aircraft.

The troops are testing their ability to respond to an earthquake, arrange for the evacuation of injured people and distribute food, water and humanitarian supplies to survivors, she said.

Cope North, which began Feb. 12 and runs through the end of the month, involves more than 100 aircraft flying over the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
CIVIL ACTION)
Plaintiff,) NO. 11-0004
v.)
ERIC B. ATALIG and) NOTICE OF
LOURDES F.) AUCTION
ATALIG,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Tract No. 21769-R2-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-9 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-10 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 12, 2017**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:
1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/
Charity R. Hodson, F0487

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
CIVIL ACTION)
Plaintiff,) NO. 12-0004
v.)
THE ESTATE OF HERMAN) NOTICE OF
T. PALACIOS and THE) AUCTION
ESTATE OF JOYCELYN)
C. PALACIOS,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 001 I 13, containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001100, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 7, 2019**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff

Richard C. Miller, NMI Bar No. F0458
Miller Law Office, LLC
2nd Fl., Macaranas Bldg., Garapan
PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670 233-0990 | Fax: 670 233-5262
Email: millercmlaw@protonmail.com
Attorney for Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
9AUTHORITY,)
CIVIL ACTION)
Plaintiff,) NO. 12-0078
v.)
ESTATE OF) NOTICE OF
VICENTE C. CASTRO,) AUCTION
et al.,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

Part of E.A. 220, situated in Talofofo area, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and further described as follows:

Beginning at a Corner 1 which is North 76-00-17 W, a distance of 1236.64 meters from a triangulation station "CAMP";

Thence S02° 03' 37" E, 105.42 meters to Corner 2;
Thence S82° 25' 44" E, 225.25 meters to Corner 3;
27Thence S02° 05' 45" W, 79.30 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S68° 36' 09" E, 15.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N42° 34' 32" E, 347.07 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N88° 31' 25" W, 604.33 meters to Corner 1;
the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 90,712.0 square meters, more or less, and being situated on land Square 6, Section 2, Units 1, m, and n, as shown in APWO Drawing No. 11406 on file and with the Clerk of Courts, Saipan District.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on April 19, 2016, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth

Development Authority from Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.

2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Miller Law Office, LLC, through mail with the address of PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to millercmlaw@protonmail.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Miller Law Office, LLC
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
CIVIL ACTION)
Plaintiff,) NO. 16-0236
v.)
AMBROSE BENNETT,) NOTICE OF
individually and dba) AUCTION
LIL & BRO'S TRIKE)
DEALERSHIP & RENTALS,)
and JUAN T. LIZAMA,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 031 A 01, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **July 23, 2018**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.

2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 02607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama to the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff


Marianas beaked whale strandings may be associated with sonar

» Researchers compared acoustic recordings and naval records with eight stranding events


In a new study, a team of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and academic scientists examined eight stranding events of Cuvier’s beaked whales in the Mariana archipelago since 2007. They found that three of these strandings occurred either during or within six days after naval anti-submarine sonar operations. The study also found that multiple species of beaked whales occur in the Mariana archipelago throughout the year, similar to other island-associated populations around the world. The study was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences. Local biologists have been recording marine mammal



Cuvier's beaked whales spend time at the surface between long, deep foraging dives. NOAA FISHERIES/ANNE SIMONIS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Friday, February 21, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/22/20)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Introduction of new Legal Counsel – Robert Glass (Robby)
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - 1. DIRECTIVE – Implementation of Austerity Measures
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - A. Update on Pending Case (N. Krum) – Legal Counsel
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Applications
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

strandings in the Mariana archipelago for more than 25 years. However, no records of beaked whale strandings occurred until 2007, when a single Cuvier’s beaked whale stranded in Guam. Since 2007, one or more Cuvier’s beaked whales have stranded on Guam on seven occasions, and on Saipan once.

Beaked whales and sonar

Beaked whales are the world record holders for deepest and longest dives among marine mammals: 9,816 feet and 137.5 minutes, respectively. Given their long dives and preference for deep wa-

ter habitats, we rarely see beaked whales at the surface. As a result, researchers have not yet been able to estimate the population size of Cuvier’s beaked whales in the Mariana archipelago. In similar island habitats like Hawaii and the Canary Islands, beaked whales live in small populations of fewer than 100 individuals. They are often permanent residents.


Throughout their range in the Northern Hemisphere, beaked whales are known to be particularly sensitive to mid-frequency active sonar. This type of sonar is used by navies to detect and locate ul-

tra-quiet submarines. Since it was introduced in the 1960s, people have documented 12 mass strandings of marine mammals that were associated with sonar activities. These occurred in the Bahamas, Canary Islands, Greece, and Italy. Dozens of strandings have occurred in the vicinity of naval activities in other locations, but lack evidence of direct association with mid-frequency active sonar.

Beaked whales may change their normal diving behavior by surfacing too quickly when they encounter navy sonar. This behavior may cause bubbles in their blood, joints, and vital organs, similar to decompression sickness (“the bends”). Scuba divers sometimes suffer the bends when they experience rapid changes in pressure. This may make whales vulnerable to stranding when exposed to naval sonar activities. However, scientists still don’t understand the exact relationship between beaked whales and sonar.

To investigate the cause of death in sonar-associated strandings, they need to be reported quickly. Skilled technicians need to be available to promptly examine

Continued on Next Page



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 • Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP20-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: February 28, 2020
TIME: 3:00 P.M.

“THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY ADULT DRUG COURT TREATMENT SERVICES”


COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED BY VISITING THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA' HUSTISIA / IMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERTO C. NARAJA
PRESIDING JUDGE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com



PUBLIC NOTICE
February 21, 2020


PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DCD BOARD MEETING. THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING COMMENCES AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA


- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Election of Vice-Chairperson
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. January 24, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - 1. Accomplishments' Report
 - 2. Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - a. Contract Renewal
 - b. FY 2021 Budget
 - 2. Loan Matters
 - a. Loan Proposal
 - b. Loan Revisions & Assistance
 - 3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
 - B. Comptroller's Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Rent-To-Own Home Program
 - B. Article XII (Private Land Only)
 - C. Update Loan Department Page on the CDA Website
 - D. Doing Business in the CNMI
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com



PUBLIC NOTICE
February 21, 2020

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. January 23, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's /Loan Manager's Report
 - B. DCD Funds' Status Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New Loan Applications
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

From Page 16

carcasses before they begin to decompose. In remote places such as Guam and Saipan, this is often difficult.

Since 2010, NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center has been collecting acoustic recordings at two deep-water sites in the Northern Mariana Islands. The long-term acoustic record captures the sounds of whales and dolphins, allowing us to document the presence of these species. It also records sounds from human activities such as shipping traffic and military sonar.

Following a rare stranding of two beaked whales on Saipan in 2011, researchers examined the acoustic records for naval sonar activities. Both recorders detected sonar for more than 10 hours the day before the first beaked whale stranded. Between 2010 and 2014, both recorders detected sonar on 35 days, with the sonar events lasting from 1 to 18 days. Since acoustic monitoring was not continuous throughout that time, there may have been other sonar events that the recordings did not capture.

They also compared the public record of sonar operations on the Marianas Island Range Complex with the beaked whale strandings in

Guam and on Saipan.

This research identified the Mariana archipelago as a location where sonar-associated strandings of beaked whales occur. The paper reported that there were eight stranding events of beaked whales between August 2007 and January 2019. One to three whales were involved in each event. Three of these stranding events occurred during or within six days following anti-submarine training activities. The likelihood that the strandings were coincidental is less than 1%. This suggests that there is a highly significant correlation between sonar and beaked whale strandings in Guam and on Saipan. Although one additional stranding, in January 2019, is associated with a known training event, the U.S. Navy has confirmed that sonar was not used until after the stranding date. NOAA Fisheries worked closely with the U.S. Navy to confirm the publicly available details of other Navy training, testing, and operational sonar use. NOAA and the U.S. Navy continue to work together to ensure that complete and accurate data are available for scientific research.

Risks for sonar-associated strandings

The acoustic recorders de-



Cuvier's beaked whale is stranded on the reef in Bile Bay, Guam on March 23, 2015.
GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/BRENT TIBBATTS

tected mid-frequency active sonar on about 2% of days (35 out of 1,602) between 2010 and 2014. The rarity of sonar in the Mariana archipelago might make it more dangerous to beaked whales. Other researchers have found that in a pristine acoustic environment, beaked whales show a strong avoidance response to both near and distant sonar. But on naval training ranges with frequent sonar use, the sonar source, received sound level, and be-

havioral context may affect individual responses.

For many species of animals, including humans, occasional and unpredictable noise is often perceived as a threat. Animals may learn to adjust their reactions after repeated exposure to new sounds. In the Mariana archipelago, the infrequent use of sonar in conjunction with quiet ambient noise levels may increase the severity in the behavioral responses of beaked whales.

The response may be different for populations living with higher ambient noise levels or those that have become habituated to frequent sonar activity.


Important beaked whale habitat

While they forage, beaked whales use echolocation clicks that are easy to recognize in the acoustic record. The recent study also used the acoustic record to identify the clicks of the whales.

It showed that Mariana archipelago contains important habitat for at least three species of beaked whales. They are Cuvier's, Blainville's, and a third unidentified species that may be the ginkgo-toothed beaked whale. The study detected beaked whales in 94% of the weeks at the eastern location, and 80% of the weeks at the western location. The consistent presence of beaked whales in the area suggests that there may be high chances of sonar-associated beaked whale strandings throughout the year.


This study highlights the value of passive acoustic monitoring for visually cryptic beaked whales as well as naval sonar activity. This is particularly valuable in remote regions with few opportunities for visual surveys or established stranding networks beyond Guam and Saipan.

This study was conducted by researchers from NOAA's Pacific Islands and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego. Brent Tibbatts and the Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources also provided information on stranding records. *(PR)*



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete **all** Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director


MANNY BOYER SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



INVITATION FOR BIDS

ITB20-GOV-031

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on February 10, 2020 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00 am ChST** at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **the close of business on February 26, 2020**, to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-031 – "Supply and Delivery of a Honey Wagon Sewer Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March, 09, 2020**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 09, 2020** and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than March 18, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 20, 2020**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres

Governor

Francisco Aguon, Acting Director

CNMI Procurement & Supply

Business

Black Wood

holds anniversary promo

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Black Wood Furniture is celebrating its first year of operations by throwing a one-day anniversary sale tomorrow, Feb. 21, at its Koblerville store.

Store manager Dayoung Chung said every item on the store would be on sale during the one-day only promotion to celebrate Black Wood's first year anniversary. "Our promotion is 10% discount for all items on one day which is tomorrow, Feb. 21, from 11am to 6pm."

The sales promotion cannot be combined with lay-away, gift certificate, and previous purchase.

Overall, Chung couldn't be happier that Black Wood has reached this milestone. "Our first year was great. We have lots of return customers. It was not only about selling furniture, but also we have been able to share ideas, opinions, and lifestyles with local customers," she said.

Since Day 1, Black Wood's runaway bestsellers have been its shelves. "We have various designs, materials, and colors of shelves so our customers can choose [items] matching their space."

Items growing in popularity among the store's growing customer base are its dining collection. "We have expandable dining table with mix-match chairs. These are popular for people who want to save space for dinning room for daytime and also want to have big enough table for dinner events or parties," she said.

When asked what's been the biggest challenge they faced during their first year, Black Wood's relative anonymity was cited as a factor. "Our store is kind of in a hidden place, so it was hard to let people know where it is. However, we have communicated to our custom-

ers by social media such as Facebook and Instagram so that we could advertise our items and location."

Chung added Black Wood being a small business meant it lacked staff, store and warehouse space, and diversity of items. But, at the end of the day, Black Wood is most happy with the relationships they cultivated with customers in the past year.

"We have met a lot of great customers so far, so it is hard to choose one customer we really love. We sincerely appreciate all our customers, especially those who are interested in our new arrivals and keep visiting."

She said customers are Black Wood's No. 1 motivation. "We are very thankful for our customers' loyalty. Without our customers' support and encouragement, our success wouldn't have been possible. We are looking forward to continuing to serve them in the following years."

Right now, Black Wood wants to promote its collection of new cabinets that can have multiple uses. "We want to introduce our new cabinet. We displayed them as shoe cabinets but it can also be used as a kitchen cabinet, a book cabinet, etc.," said Chung.

Black Wood is open from 11am to 6pm every day except Wednesdays and Sundays. For more information, contact 234-6708 or follow it on Facebook (Blackwood Saipan) or Instagram (blackwood_saipan6708).



BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK employers fear worker shortages in new immigration plan

LONDON (AP)—Vegetables rotting in the fields, food going unprocessed, the elderly and disabled left without care. That's the alarming picture painted by some British employers about the impact of new U.K. immigration rules set to be introduced in less than a year. Farms, food factories and care homes said Wednesday that they will face severe labor shortages under the government's plans to open Britain to skilled and educated immigrants while shutting out those it deems "low-skilled" workers. The message from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government was blunt: "Employers will need to

adjust." "We need to shift the focus of our economy away from a reliance on cheap labor from Europe and instead concentrate on investment in technology and automation," the government said in a paper laying out its immigration plans.

US home construction dips 3.6% in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—Construction of new homes edged back slightly in January after a December surge that had pushed home construction to the highest level in 13 years. The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that builders started construction on 1.57 million homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, a decline of 3.6% from

1.63 million units in December. That had been the highest point since late 2006 at the peak of the housing boom of the last decade. Economists had expected a slight pullback from the December surge, which was attributed in part to unseasonably warm weather which had allowed builders to start more construction projects. Application for building permits, considered a good sign of future activity, jumped 9.2% in January to an annual rate of 1.56 million units. Construction of single-family homes fell 5.9% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.01 million homes while construction in the smaller apartment category edged up 0.7% to 557,000 units.

US stocks brush off latest loss, return to record heights

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. stocks shook off their latest virus-induced loss and returned to record heights Wednesday, with several familiar faces doing the heaviest lifting. Technology stocks helped lead the market higher, as they've been doing for years, and Apple rallied to recover most of its loss from the prior day. It dropped Tuesday after warning that revenue this quarter would fall short of forecasts due to the viral outbreak centered in China. Worries remain about how disruptive the virus will be for manufacturing, travel and other economic activity across the region, but markets around

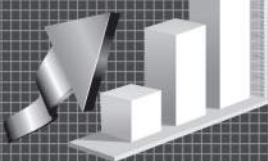
the world rose as the number of new virus cases in China fell Wednesday. Expectations are also high that China and other central banks around the world will limit the economic damage through injections of cash into markets, lower interest rates and other stimulus measures, said Shawn Cruz, manager of trader strategy at TD Ameritrade.

Airline passengers put up with more and longer flight delays

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airline travelers were a bit more likely to be delayed, and more often for longer spells, when flying around the U.S. last year, according to a government report issued Wednesday. Canceled

flights were up, and so were the number of passengers bumped off overcrowded flights. But travelers apparently are learning to take it all in stride. The rate of complaints remained nearly unchanged from 2018. The Transportation Department said that 79% of domestic flights last year arrived within 15 minutes of the airline's schedule—the government's definition of being on time. That was down from 79.2% in 2018. Hawaiian Airlines took home the prize for being the nation's most punctual airline for the 16th straight year. Blessed by good weather where it operates most of its flights, Hawaiian scored an 87.7% on-time mark, followed by Delta Air Lines at 83.5%.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

29,348.03
+115.84
.40%

S&P

3,386.15
+15.86
0.47%

NASDAQ

9,817.18
+84.44
0.87%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.5051
British Pound	0.7742
Canadian Dollar	1.3223
Chinese Yuan	6.8986
Euro	0.9265

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7743
Indian Rupee	70.9955
Japanese Yen	111.3870
Malaysian Ringgit	4.1386
New Zealand Dollar	1.5719
Philippine Peso	49.6724

Russian Ruble	63.6598
Singapore Dollar	1.4000
South Korean Won	1,175.73
Swiss Franc	0.9837
Taiwan Dollar	29.7149
Thailand Baht	31.3085

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Southeastern Michigan man accused of beheading grandmother

MONROE, Mich. (AP)—A southeastern Michigan man was charged with murder Wednesday in the death of his 79-year-old grandmother, who authorities say was beaten to death and then decapitated. Kenny McBride, 45, of Temperance, is accused of killing Cecelia Gibson, the Monroe News reported. An autopsy found the woman died of blunt force trauma to the head. Judge William Paul Nichols denied bond, and McBride was lodged in the Monroe County Jail on charges of murder and mutilation of a corpse. Monroe County sheriff's deputies found the victim's body in the living room early Monday, but her head was located in the backyard of the home McBride shared with the victim and his father in Temperance, about 7 miles (12 kilometers) north of Toledo, Ohio.

University of Michigan investigates doctor sex abuse claims

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—Five former patients have alleged that a late University of Michigan physician sexually abused them during exams, with one accuser saying Dr. Robert E. Anderson's actions over several decades made him a "sexual predator." A spokesman acknowledged that some university employees were aware of accusations against the doctor prior to a

2018 complaint that led to a police investigation. "It is our understanding from the police investigation that there were rumors and some indication that U-M staff members were aware of Dr. Anderson's inappropriate medical exams," said spokesman Rick Fitzgerald. Robert Julian Stone told The Associated Press that Anderson assaulted him during a medical appointment at the university's health center in 1971. Stone said he alerted university officials last summer, inspired by the national #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct.

Man who went missing at music festival found dead in lake

WEST BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—Detectives believe they've found the body of a man who went missing during a Florida music festival

over the weekend, authorities said. A body suspected to be Matt Eastwood, 34, was spotted Wednesday morning floating in a lake near Sunset Cove Amphitheater in West Boca Raton, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office posted on social media. Eastwood had last been seen Sunday night at the Forbidden Kingdom music festival, which features bass and dubstep music. The body was taken county to the medical examiner's office to confirm his identity and determine a cause of death. Investigators said they didn't suspect foul play.

ICE rejects California law, arrests people at courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—U.S. immigration agents arrested two people at a Northern California courthouse, including a man detained in a

hallway on his way to a hearing, flouting a new state law requiring a judicial warrant to make immigration arrests inside such facilities. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents made the arrests Tuesday at Sonoma County Superior Court, prompting an outcry from criminal justice and court officials who said the action undermines local authority and deters immigrants who are in the country illegally from participating in the U.S. justice system. ICE said California's law doesn't supersede federal law and "will not govern the conduct of federal officers acting pursuant to duly-enacted laws passed by Congress that provide the authority to make administrative arrests of removable aliens inside the United States."

Missouri man charged in Chinese wife's death

despite no body

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—The American husband of a Chinese woman who has been missing since October was charged Wednesday with first-degree murder in her death, even though her body hasn't been found. Joseph Elledge, of Columbia, Missouri, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of 28-year-old Mengqi Ji, who has been missing since October, according to court records. Prosecutors

have requested a \$5 million cash-only bond. According to a probable cause statement, Elledge did not report his wife missing for more than 24 hours after he woke up and found her gone on Oct. 9. He instead spent time playing video games and contacted his mother and a friend without mentioning that she was missing, even though her disappearance was unusual, according to the statement.



REPLICA SHIP

Spectators watch as a replica of one of Christopher Columbus' ships, the *Pinta*, is moored, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Biloxi, Miss. The *Nina* and *Pinta* replica ships are touring the Mississippi, Alabama and Florida until May. Columbus sailed across the Atlantic on the *Niña* on his three voyages to the New World beginning in 1492.

AP

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board of Directors will be holding a regular Board meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes – February 14, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. CORRESPONDENCES
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. Financial Affairs Committee
 - 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 - 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 - 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Supplemental Budget Request- Delta Dock Repairs
 - 2. Supplemental Budget Request- Rota Airport Drainage Improvement
 - 3. Miscellaneous Fees
 - 4. Fiscal Year 2018 Audit
 - 5. Resolution: Bond Issuance
 - 6. Tinian Car Rental Concession-CPA-RFP-002-20- Authority Concession Grant CRT-2020-01-02
 - 7. Echo Dock- Evaluation Plan and Scope of Concession
 - 8. Asia-Pacific Ship Investment, Inc.
 - 9. Lease Renewal/Amendment:
 - a. American Red Cross
 - b. POI Aviation
 - c. Star Marianas Air – Fuel
 - d. Star Marianas Air – Hangar
 - 10. Procurement Rules and Regulations
 - 11. Rota Seaport Restroom
 - 12. Pacific Subsea
 - 13. Tinian Hangar
 - 14. Organizational Chart
 - 15. Employment Contract: Rota Ports Manager
 - 16. Employment Contract: Port of Saipan Manager
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral testimony.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for improvements to the water system for ARFF rapid refill at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/19/2020



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-004

SUBMISSION DATE: December 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Engineering and Design Related
Services for Route 317 (Gualo Rai Road)
Improvements, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL Conference WILL BE HELD ON **February 25, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Office, Saipan.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 10, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Asia

Japan: 2 former cruise ship passengers with virus have died

TOKYO (AP)—Two elderly passengers taken off the Diamond Princess cruise ship because they were infected with a new virus have died, Japan's health ministry said Thursday, becoming the first fatalities from the virus-stricken vessel.

Japan now has three deaths linked to the COVID-19 illness.

Japan's NHK public television said both were Japanese in their 80s. A health ministry official only confirmed that they had been previously been hospitalized in serious condition and had existing chronic diseases. The official spoke anonymously, citing office protocol.

The new virus began in China late last year has sickened tens of thousands of people, mostly in central China's Hubei province. The 621 cases confirmed among the Diamond Princess's original 3,711 people on board are the most anywhere outside China.

The Diamond Princess, docked in Yokohama port, near Tokyo, started letting passengers who tested negative for the virus leave the ship Wednesday. Test results are still pending for some people on board.

Japan's government has

A bus carrying passengers from the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship leaves a port in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.



been questioned over its decision to keep people on the ship, which some experts have called a perfect virus incubator.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato initially said those with negative virus tests had ful-

filled the Japanese quarantine requirement and were free to walk out and go home on public transportation. Later Wednesday, he urged the former passengers to refrain from non-essential outings and try

to stay home for about two weeks.

"COVID-19 is not 100% known, and a lot of people got infected on the Diamond Princess. Taking those factors into consideration, we believe

taking extra caution will contribute to preventing the risk of future infections," he said.

About 500 passengers had left the ship by Wednesday evening, and Japanese officials were to spend the next three days disembarking about 2,000 others. The Diamond Princess was quarantined after one passenger who left the ship earlier in Hong Kong was found to have the virus.

Crew members, who couldn't be confined to their rooms because they were working, are expected to stay on the ship.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said a more controlled health watch for the crew would start immediately because they can isolate themselves by spreading out and using vacated passenger rooms.

Before the quarantine on the ship had ended, the United States evacuated more than 300 Americans and put them in quarantine in the U.S. for another 14 days. South Korea, Australia and Hong Kong evacuated their residents for quarantines as well, and Canada and Italy sent flights for their citizens as well.

China's new virus cases, deaths rise but increase is lower

BEIJING (AP)—New virus cases in China rose by just 394 from the previous day, with a rise in the death toll of 114, the government said Thursday, as health inspectors went door-to-door to find every infected person in the worst-hit city.

Mainland China has now reported 2,118 deaths and 74,576 total cases. While the overall spread of the virus has been slowing, the situation remains severe in Hubei province and its capital, Wuhan, where the new coronavirus was first detected in December. More than 80% of the country's cases are in Hubei and 95% of the deaths, according to data from China's National Health Commission.

The new daily figure is a notable drop from the 1,749 cases recorded the previous day.

Coronavirus vs. SARS

The death toll has more than doubled the 774 people believed to have died in the 2002-03 epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), another viral outbreak that originated in China. The total of 75,192 cases on the mainland vastly exceeds the 8,098 sickened by SARS.



Inspectors in protective suits went door-to-door Wednesday in Wuhan to try to find every infected person. "This must be taken seriously," said Wang

Zhonglin, the city's newly minted Communist Party secretary.

Cities in Hubei with a combined population of more than

60 million have been under lockdown since the Lunar New Year holiday last month, usually China's busiest travel period. Authorities halted nearly all transportation and movement except for quarantine efforts, medical care, and delivery of food and basic necessities. "Wartime" measures were implemented in some places, with residents prevented from leaving their apartments.

The stringent measures have followed public fury over Hubei authorities' handling of the outbreak when it began in December. The risk of human-to-human transmission was downplayed, and doctors who tried to warn the public were reprimanded by police. Wuhan residents reported overcrowding in hospitals and futile attempts to seek treatment.

US woman who hid baby arrested in Philippines for kidnapping

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An American woman charged with human trafficking for allegedly attempting to smuggle a 6-day-old baby out of the Philippines inside a sling bag was arrested on an additional count of kidnapping, authorities said.

Jennifer Talbot from Utah, who was out on bail while facing the human trafficking charge, was presented to reporters in Manila on Wednesday by officials from the

National Bureau of Investigation, a government anti-crime investigative agency. Talbot wore an orange shirt and had a mask on, with her left arm in a sling.

She pulled down her mask and said, "I object to this press conference without my attorney and the embassy present."

Talbot had planned to board a Delta Air Lines flight to the United States with the baby on Sept. 4, according to prosecutors. After discovering the

baby, airline staff called immigration personnel, who arrested Talbot at the airport. The baby was turned over to government welfare personnel.

The prosecutors said that Talbot presented an affidavit at the airport, allegedly from the baby's mother giving consent for the newborn to travel to the U.S., but it had not been signed by the mother.

Officials said no government travel approval had been issued for the baby, prompting

them to file human trafficking charges last year against Talbot. Talbot also violated at least two other laws, kidnapping and illegal detention, the prosecutors said.

Talbot was served with an arrest warrant for kidnapping on Monday while she was attending a court hearing related to the trafficking charge. There is no bail available for kidnapping.

An initial hearing on the kidnapping charge is scheduled on March 12.

Ex-S. Korea President Lee sent back to jail over corruption

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Nearly a year after he was bailed out of jail while facing corruption charges, former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak was taken back into custody on Wednesday after an appeals court sentenced him to a lengthier prison term of 17 years over bribery, embezzlement and other convictions.

The Seoul High Court also ordered the 78-year-old to pay 13 billion won (\$10.9 million) in fines and forfeit another 5.78 billion won (\$4.6 million) over the alleged crimes that took place while he was president from 2008 to 2013 or when he was a candidate before winning the 2007 election.

Lee's lawyers told reporters after the ruling that he plans to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Lee, who has denied the accusations against him, appealed to the High Court after a lower court in October 2018 found him guilty of bribery, embezzlement and other crimes and sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

Lee was released from detention in March last year after the court approved bail of 1 billion won (\$841,000) and permitted him to return home under strict monitoring conditions that resembled

bled house arrest. He had been banned from meeting or communicating with people beyond direct family members and lawyers.

The charges against Lee include taking bribes worth millions of dollars from Samsung and other companies and misusing the funds of South Korea's spy agency. The court also sided with prosecutors' claims that Lee embezzled around \$30 million in corporate funds from an auto parts company he owned.

Lee was a Hyundai CEO and Seoul mayor before he became president. His election victory ended a decade of liberal rule that sought rapprochement with North Korea and reflected voters' hopes that he would revive a bad economy. But Lee's presidency was marred by political and corruption scandals and heightened animosity with North Korea, including attacks on a warship and a border island that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Lee's conservative successor, Park Geun-hye, is also serving a decades-long prison term over a separate corruption scandal for which she was removed from office in 2017 following months of huge anti-government rallies. She has not requested bail.

World

Police say 8 killed in shootings in the German city of Hanau

HANAU, Germany (AP)—Eight people were killed in shootings in and outside two hookah lounges in a southwestern German city late Wednesday, and authorities were searching for the perpetrators.

The shootings in Hanau also wounded about five people. Police said a dark vehicle was spotted leaving the location of the first attack about 10 p.m. (2100 GMT), and another shooting was reported at a second site.

Police officers swarmed central Hanau, cordoning off the area of one of the shootings as a helicopter hovered overhead. A car covered in

thermal foil also could be seen, with shattered glass next to it. Forensic experts in white overalls collected evidence.

A short police statement gave no information on the identity or nationality of the victims and said a motive was not immediately known.

Police later said shots were fired inside and in front of two hookah lounges, news agency dpa reported. Three people were killed and at least one seriously hurt in central Hanau. At the second site, about 2 1/2 kilometers (1 1/2 miles) away, five people were killed.

Hookah lounges are places

where people gather to smoke flavored tobacco from Middle Eastern water pipes.

"This was a terrible evening that will certainly occupy us for a long, long time and we

will remember with sadness," Hanau Mayor Claus Kaminisky told the Bild newspaper. Lawmaker Katja Leikert, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party

who represents Hanau in the German parliament, tweeted that it was "a real horror scenario for us all."

Hanau is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Frank-

furt. It has about 100,000 inhabitants and is in Hesse state.

Police from neighboring Bavaria were deployed to help their local colleagues, dpa reported.

UN: Thousands fleeing Syrian offensive, kids dying in cold

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing a Russian-backed Syrian offensive are being squeezed into ever smaller areas near Turkey's border "under horrendous conditions" in freezing temperatures that are killing babies and young children, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Wednesday.

Mark Lowcock told the U.N. Security Council that "the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe" in northwest Idlib province, which is the last major rebel stronghold, has "overwhelmed" efforts to provide aid.

He said nearly 900,000 people have been displaced since Dec. 1 when the government offensive began, more than 500,000 of them children.

"Many are on foot or on the backs of trucks in below-freezing temperatures, in the rain and snow," Lowcock said. "They are moving into increasingly crowded areas they think will be safer. But in Idlib, nowhere is safe."

Lowcock, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said almost 50,000



Civilians flee from Idlib toward the north to find safety inside Syria near the border with Turkey, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020. Syrian troops are waging an offensive in the last rebel stronghold.

people have taken shelter under trees and in open spaces. "I am getting daily reports of babies and other young children dying in the cold," he added.

U.N. special envoy Geir Pedersen echoed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' expression of alarm on Tuesday at the rapid deterioration of the

humanitarian situation "and the tragic suffering of civilians."

"Hostilities are now approaching densely populated areas such as Idlib city and Bab al-Hawa border crossing, which has among the highest concentration of displaced civilians in northwest Syria and

also serves as a humanitarian lifeline," he said.

Pedersen warned: "The potential for further mass displacement and even more catastrophic human suffering is apparent, as an increasing number of people are hemmed into an ever-shrinking space."

Mexico City arrests 2 suspects in kidnap, death of 7-year-old girl

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Authorities said late Wednesday they arrested a woman and a man suspected in the kidnapping of a 7-year-old girl whose dead body was found wrapped in a plastic bag days later, a case that has provoked outrage in Mexico as the latest brutal example of killings of women and girls.

Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said via Twitter that the suspects were detained in a community of neighboring Mexico State by state police and the National Guard. She said more details would be released later.

Sheinbaum earlier had said that the two suspects are apparently a couple and that witnesses told investigators the pair had abandoned their rented home in a southern neighborhood of the capital Saturday, the day before the girl's body was discovered.

Authorities searched the house Tuesday night and found clothing and other items belonging to the girl, Fatima.

Sheinbaum also said the woman was known to the girl's family. The previous day, Fatima's grandfather told The Associated Press that he did not recognize a police sketch of the female suspect, but authorities on Wednesday released photographs of the both suspects.

Fatima, who was buried Tuesday by grieving family members, friends and neighbors, was seen on video leaving her school Feb. 11 with a woman who was not her mother. That day her mother was about 15-20 minutes late to pick her up, according to family members.

In Mexico City, grade

school students often walk out of school after classes to meet parents waiting on the sidewalks, but there have been few controls to ensure someone is there to meet them.

The girl's grandfather and others have criticized the school for turning Fatima out onto the street when classes were done for the day and for not calling police to come get her when there was no parent there to get her.

Children who aren't picked up are supposed to be taken to a prosecutor's facility in the central neighborhood of Doctores. It can take an hour or more to get there from outlying neighborhoods, especially when the sprawling capital's notorious traffic is at its peak.

With the death of Fatima, officials have said they plan to have prosecutor's offices around the city care for children who aren't picked up until their parents are able to claim them closer to home.

Sheinbaum said officials also plan to bolster protocols for identifying people who pick kids up from school, accelerate deployment of security cameras and have uniformed workers on hand for security at drop-off and pick-up hours.

City prosecutors said the arrest warrants would be on charges of kidnapping with intent to cause harm. It's possible that murder or other charges could be added later.

Authorities lost a full day in searching for Fatima because they waited for a formal missing person's case file to be opened.

Sheinbaum said officials were reviewing the timeline of response from when the girl was first reported missing.

200 vehicles involved in pileup south of Montreal

MONTREAL (AP)—Canadian police said Wednesday whiteout conditions that came about suddenly most likely triggered a massive pileup involving about 200 vehicles south of Montreal.

There were no immediate reports of deaths but Quebec provincial police said about

a dozen people were sent to hospital with minor to serious injuries after the midday crash in in La Prairie, Quebec.

Firefighters from La Prairie said two people were still trapped Wednesday afternoon and authorities were trying to stabilize a diesel spill before extracting them

from the wreckage.

Those two people are considered to be in serious condition.

The crash occurred around 12:30 p.m. on a stretch of Highway 15 that runs along the St. Lawrence River. The pileup of vehicles stretched for about a kilometer.

Transport Minister Francois



Emergency personnel gather at the scene following a multi-vehicle crash on the south shore of Montreal in La Prairie, Quebec, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.

Bonnardel told reporters in Quebec City the pileup took place in an area where heavy winds come off the river, creating sudden blizzard-like conditions.

"People were driving, there were strong winds ... and, suddenly, you couldn't see anything," Bonnardel said. "And then, well, the pileup started."

Two snow removal operations took place in the area in the hour before the incident, he noted.

Bonnardel said the highway isn't known for particular safety issues and 65,000 vehicles use the southbound part of it on a daily basis.

The transport minister said he'll await the results of an investigation before deciding if any particular measures need to be taken.

Police spokesman Sgt. Stephane Tremblay said about 50 vehicles were able to drive away from the collision, but 75 others would need to be towed. Numerous vehicles were mangled, including several large trucks.

Off The Wall

UK patient plays violin during unusual brain surgery

LONDON (AP)—Surgeons at King's College Hospital in London removed a brain tumor from a woman who played the violin during the procedure.

Doctors for violinist Dagmar Turner, 53, mapped her brain before the surgery to identify areas that were active when she played the instrument and those responsible for controlling language and movement.

Doctors then woke her in mid-procedure so she could play to “ensure the surgeons did not damage any crucial areas of the brain that controlled Dagmar’s delicate hand movements,” the hospital said in a statement.

“We knew how important the violin is to Dagmar, so it was vital that we preserved function in the delicate areas of her brain that allowed her to play,” said Prof. Keyoumars

Ashkan, her neurosurgeon. “We managed to remove over 90% of the tumor, including all the areas suspicious of aggressive activity,

while retaining full function in her left hand.”

Turner, who plays in Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra and various choral societies,

left the hospital three days later and hopes to return to her orchestra soon. She was full of praise for the efforts of Ashkan, a fellow music lover.

“The thought of losing my ability to play was heart-breaking but, being a musician himself, Prof. Ashkan understood my concerns,” she said.

“He and the team at King’s went out of their way to plan the operation – from mapping my brain to planning the position I needed to be in to play.”

‘Leaning Tower of Dallas’ is online star after implosion

DALLAS (AP)—A social media sensation dubbed the “Leaning Tower of Dallas” was born when a portion of a building survived an implosion in Dallas.

After the implosion Sunday failed to bring down the core of the 11-story former Affiliated Computer Services building, the online jokes and photos began. Many, inspired by Italy’s Leaning Tower of Pisa, posted photos showing themselves pretending to prop up the lopsided tower.

One Twitter user quipped, “Oops, an implosion masterpiece!!” Another asked “Who needs Pisa? We have the Lean-

ing Tower of Dallas.”

An online petition even popped up to “save this landmark from destruction,” noting, “if anything, do it for the memes.”

Lloyd Nabors, whose company is handling the demolition, said crews will use a wrecking ball to take down the remaining tower, which included the elevator shafts.

Steve Pettigrew, president of the company that created the blast plan and handled the explosives, said all of the explosives did go off.

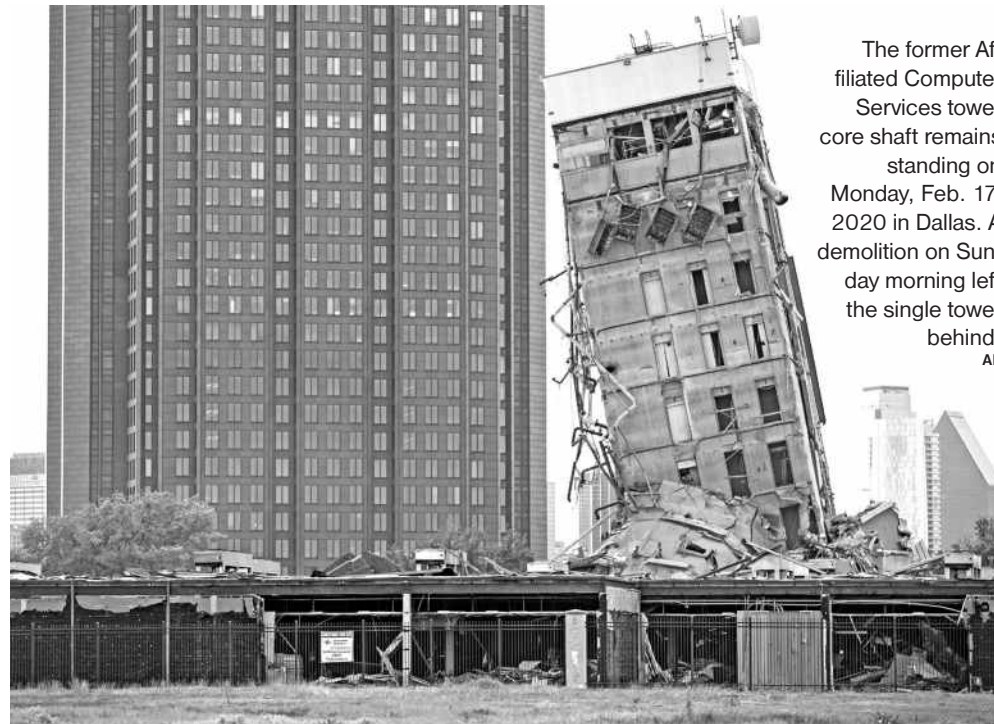
“That type of construction with the central core and the outer columns—they’re tough, obviously,” he said.

Nabors said the tower is leaning in the direction it was intended to fall, and there

aren’t any safety concerns.

The building is being de-

molished to make way for a \$2.5 billion mixed-use project.



The former Affiliated Computer Services tower core shaft remains standing on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 in Dallas. A demolition on Sunday morning left the single tower behind. AP

Burger King breaks the mold with new advertising campaign



This undated image provided by Burger King shows an advertising campaign image with the Whopper hamburger. The burger chain is showing its Whopper covered in mold in print and TV ads running in Europe and the U.S. The message: Burger King is removing artificial preservatives from the Whopper.

AP

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Burger King is breaking the mold in its new advertising campaign.

The burger chain is portraying its Whopper covered in mold in print and TV ads running in Europe and the U.S. The message: Burger King is removing artificial preservatives from its signature burger.

The company, already known for irreverent ad campaigns, turned it up a notch, including a time-lapse of a decaying burger on Twitter. That imagery goes beyond the print ads that show a 28-day-old burger—a week beyond.

Early reaction to the campaign Wednesday was a mix of applause for the shift away from preservatives, to disgust.

The restaurant, based in Miami, Florida, says it has removed artificial preserva-

tives from the Whopper in several European countries—including France, Sweden and Spain—and around 400 of its 7,346 U.S. restaurants. It plans to remove preservatives from Whoppers served in all of its restaurants this year.

The Whopper is topped with onions, lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise and pickles, all of which will contain no artificial preservatives.

By the end of this year, Burger King said all food items—including sandwiches, sides and desserts—will be free from artificial colors, artificial flavors and artificial preservatives in the U.S. and select European countries, including Germany and the United Kingdom.

McDonald’s announced in 2018 that it was removing artificial colors, flavors and preservatives from seven of its burgers.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Stolen Lamborghinis crash; man says, ‘I just made a mistake’

WAYLAND, Mass. (AP)—A man who was charged with stealing a pair of Lamborghini SUVs that were then damaged in a crash says he was picked up along the way and wasn’t involved with the theft. The \$200,000 luxury vehicles were stolen from Herb Chambers Lamborghini Boston in suburban Wayland around 3 a.m. on Tuesday. The two Lamborghinis and a Kia crashed in Malden at about 8 a.m. Tuesday, police said. The Kia’s driver was taken to the hospital. Elijah McKinney, 18, was arrested at the scene. He pleaded not guilty Tuesday to receiving a stolen motor vehicle and resisting arrest, Malden police Capt. Marc Gatcomb told The Boston Globe. McKinney was released to home confinement and ordered to wear a GPS monitor. Police are still seeking two other people who fled after the crash. Officers responded to the dealership after being notified by an alarm company of a break-in, said Wayland police Lt. Sean Gibbons. One of the showroom windows was shattered, and a large rock was near the window, WCVB-TV reported. It appears the suspects were able to remove the keys for the cars that were in the front lot and drive off, Gibbons said.

McKinney told WCVB-TV that he regrets his involvement, but that he was not at the dealership when the cars were stolen. “I wasn’t involved with the stealing of the vehicles. I was just picked up,” McKinney said. “I just made a mistake.”

Technicality extinguishes sparkler record attempt in Wyoming

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP)—An attempt in Wyoming to break a world record for the most sparklers lit simultaneously failed on a technicality. Guinness World Records officials ruled each participant was required to light his or her own sparkler during the attempt in Gillette, The Gillette News Record reports. The attempt in August was part of the Pyrotechnics Guild International’s 50th annual convention. The event had an apparatus for lighting multiple sparklers, which was built by students and instructors at Gillette College. Volunteers with torches lit sparklers and distributed them to participants. More than 1,700 people attended and 2,500 sparklers were lit. The current record is 1,713. Basic guidelines are listed on the Guinness website, but the specific guidelines were not received prior to the attempt. Christen Burdette of the the Campbell County Convention and Visitors Bureau

center said Guinness officials were impressed and complimented the event organized by the bureau and the Gillette Main Street organization, but unfortunately the effort was not viable. “It’s a bummer, but that just means we have to do it again,” Burdette said.

Agency ordered to pay fees in ‘IM GOD’ license plate case

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has to pay more than \$150,000 in legal fees for a man who won a lawsuit allowing him to put “IM GOD” on his license plate. A judge ruled this week that the state agency must pay \$150,715.50 in attorneys’ fees and an additional \$491.24 for court costs, news outlets reported. The ruling came in a case filed by Ben Hart, a self-identified atheist, who set out to get the Kentucky plate in 2016. The transportation department denied the request on the basis it violated anti-discrimination guidelines. A federal judge ruled in November that “vanity plates” are private speech protected by the First Amendment and that the state had violated Hart’s rights by denying him the plate. Lawyers for the state cabinet fought the costs, calling them excessive. The fees will go to a team of lawyers, including some with the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky and

the Freedom From Religion Foundation, both of which helped Hart challenge the state’s decision.

Hawaii police say thieves took \$1K worth of pungent fruit

HONOLULU (AP)—Police in Hawaii are investigating the theft of fruit valued at about \$1,000 including durian, which is known for its powerful odor. Two men entered a property in Hilo on the Big Island and removed 18 durian and other types of fruit on the night of Feb. 1, the Hawaii Police Department said. Authorities released a surveillance camera image of two suspects and asked the public for additional information that could lead to the capture of the fruit bandits. The tropical, spiky durian fruit resembles a small porcupine and typically weighs from 2 to 7 pounds (1 to 3 kilograms). Durian is known for a pale yellow flesh with a sweet taste but a smell that has been compared to moldy cheese, rotten onions, dead fish and far worse. Durian is popular across Southeast Asia but also is commonly banned from hotel rooms and public transportation there. The smell of rotting durian in a cupboard was mistaken for a gas leak and prompted an evacuation of a library at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia in April 2018.

Science & Technology

Q&A: Facebook VP of Messenger discusses privacy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—At Facebook, Stan Chudnovsky oversees the Messenger chat app that's used by well over 1 billion people each month. He's playing a key role in helping Facebook integrate that app with its other chat tools, WhatsApp and Instagram Direct.

The massive project has already gotten pushback from regulators worried about Facebook's size and power. Government officials also

worry about Facebook's plans to extend end-to-end encryption to Messenger. Once that happens, Facebook wouldn't be able to respond to law enforcement subpoenas because it wouldn't have a way to unscramble messages.

Chudnovsky, who moved to the U.S. from Russia in 1994, joined Facebook in 2015. He spoke with The Associated Press recently about his work and views on privacy. Questions and answers

have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What are the biggest roadblocks in bringing end-to-end encryption?

A: It's technologically hard to move from the system that is alive and functioning and has billions of messages being sent every day to where it's done completely differently architecturally. We also need to figure out how to do as much as we can on safety, while being the leaders on

privacy. We are trying to go through that process slowly and very responsibly while talking to everyone.

Most messages in the U.S., where (Apple's) iMessage is leading, are already end-to-end encrypted. We want to make sure that we get to the point when we lead very strongly and we do as much on safety as we possibly can given the constraints of end-to-end encryption.

Q: How do you ensure that people are safe when you can't see bad things people are doing?

A: We are going to continue to work very closely with law enforcement on whatever we can provide. We also have connectivity to social networks. Whoever is a bad player on social networks, we will be able to see if those bad players exist on messaging services.

I don't want to go into details on how we are thinking about approaching that stuff. But we're just going to invest heavily in identifying

threats earlier.

Q: You can send things in a private message that you can't post on Facebook, right?

A: Definitely. You should be able to send whatever you want to send in a private message.

Q: What if it's illegal or hurting someone?

A: Generally we believe that conversation between people should be private. We don't make a difference between the conversations that are happening in the living room or on the phone and conversations that are happening in a private chat.

Q: What if you try to sell a gun, despite Facebook's ban?

A: If you're trying to sell a gun, you are probably trying to sell a gun to many people. When someone reports that and someone provides the messages that from the point of that person are illegal, then definitely we will be



Chudnovsky

able to look at that.

Q: What are the biggest things that you have to figure out before interoperability becomes reality?

A: Generally, just a features compatibility in the sense

that, if I "like" some message on one app, how does it manifest itself in another? Or will I be able to also call people, not only send messages?

Q: Do you think scrutiny of Facebook will ease any time soon?

A: We have a lot of responsibility. And the criticism, sometimes it's accurate. Sometimes it's not accurate. At the end of the day, what it means if everyone's talking about you positively or negatively or both, is that you're important. We just need to continue to deliver value to people. And as long as we are building products that people like. I think it's going to be fine.

EU proposes rules for artificial intelligence to limit risks

LONDON (AP)—The European Union unveiled proposals Wednesday to regulate artificial intelligence that call for strict rules and safeguards on risky applications of the rapidly developing technology.

The report is part of the bloc's wider digital strategy aimed at maintaining its position as the global pacesetter on technological standards. Big tech companies seeking to tap Europe's vast and lucrative market, including those from the U.S. and China, would have to play by any new rules that come into force.

The EU's executive Commission said it wants to develop a "framework for trustworthy artificial intelligence." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had ordered her top deputies to come up with a coordinated European approach to artificial intelligence and data strategy 100 days after she took office in December.

"We will be particularly careful where essential human rights and interests are at stake," von der Leyen told reporters in Brussels. "Artificial intelligence must serve people, and therefore artificial

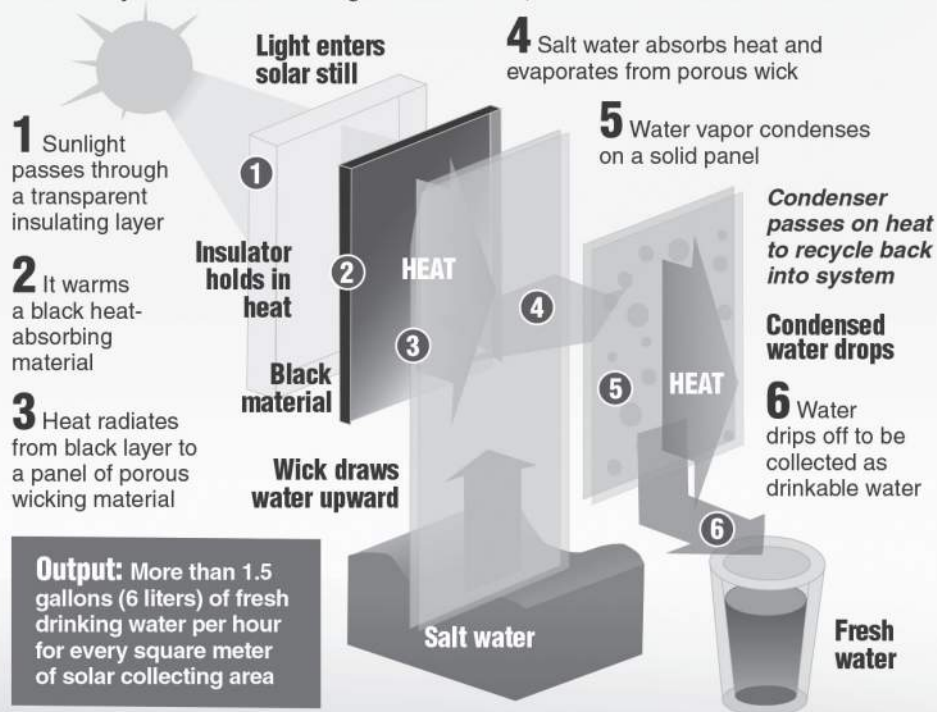
intelligence must always comply with people's rights."

EU leaders, keen on establishing "technological sovereignty," also released a strategy to unlock data from the continent's businesses and the public sector so it can be harnessed for further innovation in artificial intelligence. Officials in Europe, which doesn't have any homegrown tech giants, hope to catch up with the U.S. and China by using the bloc's vast and growing trove of industrial data for what they anticipate is a coming wave of digital transformation.

Science Matters

Simple, efficient seawater purifier

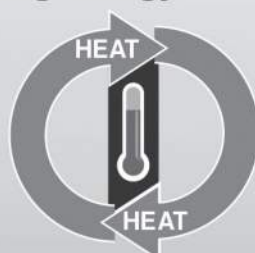
A completely passive, solar-powered water desalination system has achieved new level of efficiency as it harnesses sunlight to make fresh, drinkable water from seawater.



Key to its efficiency: Recycling energy

At each stage, heat released by the previous stage is captured and reused instead of being vented away and wasted

The device can reach an overall efficiency – solar energy taken in compared to work done converting water to vapor – of **385 percent**



A large-scale version of this proof-of-concept system could potentially serve arid, off-grid coastal areas to provide an efficient, low-cost water source

Source: Lenan Zhang, Lin Zhao, Zhenyuan Xu, Evelyn Wang and others at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China); Energy and Environmental Science journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q&A: Adding information to iPhone photos

Q: I'll be taking a trip to Italy this year and taking lots of photos with my iPhone. What's the best way to add information to an iPhone photo? For example, I'd like to list who or what is in the picture. (I can easily do that on my Mac, but I won't have it with me on the trip.)

A: The easiest way to caption photos is to use the "markup" function in the iPhone's photo editing tools. The only disadvantage to using this method is that "markup" overlays the caption on the photo, obscuring part of the picture. (There are also several non-Apple apps for the iPhone that work the same way; see tinyurl.com/s4rxdoe).

To try the iPhone's "markup" feature, call up a photo, click "edit" at the upper right corner, then click the three dots that appear at the upper right corner. In the next menu, click "markup." In the following menu, select a text size and color, then click the plus sign to the right. In the resulting pop-up menu, select "text" to create a text box on top of the photo (you can move or resize the text box to avoid covering up something important in the picture.) Then touch the text box and select "edit" to begin typing your caption. If you like the result, click "done" twice. If you don't, click "cancel" at upper left and try again. If you decide later that you

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



don't like having captions written on top of your photos, click "edit" then click "revert" at the bottom of the screen. Choose "revert to original."

Another option for labeling your vacation photos is to create a new photo album on your iPhone for each location you visit. (To learn how, see tinyurl.com/vhxa389). Then, when you return home, transfer the contents of each vacation photo album to a Mac or PC, where you can "rename" the individual picture files with more descriptive labels. For example, you could rename a photo from a trip to Italy that has the nondescript file name "Photo Jul 1" to "Roman Colosseum at dusk." To change the file name of a photo on your computer, see tinyurl.com/v54onwn for Mac or tinyurl.com/tpnv2hf for PC.

Q: I pay for a Comcast internet service with a 500 megabits per second download speed, but Comcast's speed test website said I was getting download speeds of only 260 to 320 megabits (my PC has a

wired connection to the router, so I know it's not a Wi-Fi issue.) A visit from a Comcast technician didn't help. Then I switched to Ookla's speedtest.net, and immediately started seeing download speeds of 500 megabits or more. What speed am I really getting?

A: I would trust the results from speedtest.net.

Why should the various internet speed tests produce different results? Because they don't all use the same method to calculate speed. One test server might repeat tests over a single connection, while another might use several connections at once.

Results can also vary based on the distance between you and the test server. The greater the distance, the more slowdowns result because of other internet traffic and the increasing number of "router hops" (each time a signal is relayed is called a "hop.") Other speed factors are the time of day (internet congestion is greater in the daytime) and which web browser you use.

Life & Style

Bong happy 'Parasite' succeeded despite disparity it showed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Oscar-winning "Parasite" director Bong Joon-ho said Wednesday the film's "biggest pleasure and the most significant meaning" to him is that it succeeded even though the audiences might feel uncomfortable with his explicit description of bitter wealth disparity in modern society.

Bong's dark comic thriller about two families on the op-

posite ends of South Korea's social spectrum is a history-making film. It won best picture at this month's 92nd Academy Awards ceremony, becoming the first non-English-language film to get the top honor. Bong and his film clinched three other Oscars.

Bong told reporters that the movie's story has not only "funny, comic" elements but also "bitter, painful natures"

of the disparity between the haves and have-nots in modern society.

"I didn't want to avoid such a part even a little bit," Bong told a nationally televised news conference. "Audiences might hate that or feel uncomfortable to watch it ... but I thought the only op-

tion I can have for this movie is depicting the world we live as frankly as possible, though that might be risky commercially."

Noting that "Parasite" was already commercially successful in North America, France, Vietnam, Japan, the United Kingdom and his na-



Bong

tive South Korea even before his Oscar triumph, Bong said, "Regardless of the (Oscar) wins, the biggest pleasure and the most significant meaning was the fact that many audiences around the world of our times respond to the movie."

The class satire tells the story of how a family of four poor, unemployed people living in a slum basement apartment comically infiltrates a wealthy family residing at a luxurious mansion before things unravel violently and tragically.

Bong already had commercial and critical success with his 2013 sci-fi film "Snowpiercer," which starred Chris Evans and Tilda Swinton along with South Korean "Parasite" actor Song Kang-ho. But nothing that's come before has been remotely as successful as "Parasite," a profoundly South Korean film shot in the Korean language.

Along with the best picture award, Bong was also named best director and co-shared another Oscar title, best original screenplay, with "Parasite" co-writer Han Jin Won. The film won best international feature film as well.

The movie, which is also the first South Korean film to win an Oscar, has made Bong a national hero. Ahead of April's parliamentary elections in South Korea, some politicians even proposed setting up a Bong statue, establishing a street named after him and rebuilding the house where he was born.

Asked about such proposals, Bong joked, "I hope people will talk about such things after I die."

Bong said that he will leave it to critics, journalists and fans to analyze the movie's commercial appeal, and that he'd fully focus on working on this next film.

Deliberating a 2nd day, Weinstein jury revisits '06 account

NEW YORK (AP)—Jurors at Harvey Weinstein's rape trial spent much of their second day of deliberations Wednesday revisiting a former film and TV production assistant's allegation that he sexually assaulted her in July 2006.

Jurors sent a note shortly after resuming deliberations for the day saying they wanted to rehear Mimi Haley's testimony about the accusation that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006 and about another sexual encounter with him about two weeks later.

They also said they wanted to see emails that Weinstein wrote about Haley and asked for a detailed explanation of the two charges involving her allegations—an indication that they haven't

reached a verdict on either of them.

Haley, now 42, testified that weeks after arriving in New York for a behind-the-scenes job on Weinstein's "Project Runway" TV show, she found herself fighting in vain as he pushed her onto a bed and attacked her, undeterred by her kicks and pleas of, "no, no, no."

She also testified that they had sex at a hotel two weeks later, even though she didn't want to be intimate. Weinstein's lawyers have suggested that episode is evidence he didn't coerce her during the first encounter, either.

Court stenographers Randy Berkowitz and Susan Pearce-

Bates took turns reading the lawyers' questions and Haley's testimony about the encounters. Court rules don't allow jurors to have a copy of the trial transcript, Judge James Burke said.



Weinstein

Weinstein, 67, is charged with five counts stemming from the allegations of Haley and two other women. Haley's account is integral to the first two counts that jurors were instructed to consider on their maze-like verdict form, an indication they may still have a long way to go.

For the first count, predatory sexual assault, Haley's allegation is intertwined with actress Annabella Sciorra's claim that Weinstein

raped her in the mid-1990s. To find him guilty on that count, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, jurors must agree that both assaults happened.

If jurors decide that Weinstein didn't rape Sciorra, they can then consider the second count—a criminal sex act charge stemming solely from Haley's allegation.

Weinstein is also charged with raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013. Like Haley's allegation, that one is also intertwined with Sciorra's for purposes of a second predatory sexual assault count. Jurors also have the option to weigh standalone rape charges stemming from the 2013 incident, depending on how they decide on the predatory count.

In the spirit of Whitney: Houston Hologram tour set to begin

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Whitney Houston is about to appear on the concert stage again.

Eight years after her death, a holographic Houston will embark on a European tour that starts in England on Feb. 25 and runs through early April, with U.S. dates expected to follow.

"Now is just the right time," said Pat Houston, the singer's sister-in-law, former manager and the executor of her estate, which is producing the show in collaboration with BASE Hologram. "In the spirit of Whitney, I know we're doing all the right things right now."

Last week, a few dozen members of the media were given a dress-rehearsal preview in Burbank, California of most of "An Evening With Whitney: The Whitney Houston Hologram Tour," which features a Houston projected onto a nearly invisible scrim on a stage with real dancers and a live backing band.

The concert set includes most of her biggest hits—"How Will I Know," "Saving All My Love For You," "I



In this Sept. 15, 2004 file photo, recording artist Whitney Houston performs at the 2004 World Music Awards at the Thomas and Mack Arena in Las Vegas. AP

Will Always Love You," along with some unexpected rarities, including a cover of Steve Winwood's "Higher Love" that Houston first recorded three decades ago.

The show, which was first conceived five years ago, used

a body double along with hundreds of hours of Houston performances and extensive CGI synthesizing.

"We created the hologram the same way they did Carrie Fisher in the 'Star Wars' movie 'Rogue One,'" said Marty

Tudor, CEO of BASE Hologram, which has previously revived performing versions of dead singers including Roy Orbison and Maria Callas. "It's lengthy, it's tedious, it's a big, complicated process, but I think it worked."

Bestselling young adult authors are aiming at older readers

NEW YORK (AP)—After gaining millions of young readers for her "Divergent" fantasy series, Veronica Roth decided she and her characters were ready for the next phase—a novel for adults.

"I grew up on stories like 'Dune' and 'Harry Potter,' and 'Ender's Game' about people who shoulder burdens when they're too young to bear them," says Roth, who tells the story of Sloane Andrews and her fellow fighters against the havoc of the Dark One in "Chosen Ones," scheduled for April. "So the question of what comes after those stories just kept nagging me. 'Chosen Ones' is about that 'after'—about a group of 30-some-things who saved the world when they were younger, and they're still dealing with the repercussions of it."

Roth, Tochi Onyebuchi and Sarah J. Maas are among several writers popular with young people who have books out this year intended for older readers. Some have never written for adults, while others move freely among teens and older readers. All are navigating one of the more complicated paths in publishing—how to consciously appeal to different audiences for different books, from the use or absence of profanity to the choice of subject matter and how to present it. The history is mixed: Judy Blume and Neil Gaiman are among

those who have succeeded well, while others, including Daniel Handler and Stephanie Meyer, never fully caught on with adults.

Roth's first "Divergent" book came out in 2011, and she reasons that enough of her original readers have reached an age that they'll be open to a mature approach. She considers her new work a "pretty natural" moment in her career, when you "get curious about other genres, other types of writing."

Onyebuchi had published "Beasts Made of Night" and "Crown of Thunder" before completing his first book for adults, "Riot Baby." It is set in part around the 1992 Los Angeles riots following the acquittal of policemen who beat Rodney King. "Riot Baby" is a dystopian fantasy about Kev, who has been jailed in Rikers Island, and his sister Ella, who holds the power and the horror of seeing the future.

A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, among other schools, Onyebuchi has worked in private and government law and thought a long time about a book that could draw upon his education and background. He considers adult books his first passion, but he found that writing for young people strengthened his storytelling, forcing him to write clearly and not "to obfuscate." For "Riot Baby," he was able to expand upon that discipline.

LONDON (AP)—Soulful London rapper Dave brought a political edge to the U.K. music industry's Brit Awards, giving a performance alleging racism in Britain's government and

in media coverage of the royal family before he won the coveted album of the year prize.

Previously an unpredictable and sometimes ramshackle event, the Brits have been re-

fashioned into a slick showcase for British talent in recent years. Organizers of this year's show culled several award categories to make more room for performances by U.K. and international stars.

Billie Eilish gave the first public performance of her James Bond theme song "No Time to Die." Lizzo got the audience worked up with her Grammy-winning anthem "Truth Hurts." Stormzy brought on Nigerian singer Burna Boy and scores of extras for a medley of hits.

During his turn in the talent parade, Dave held the audience rapt with a piano-accompanied rendition of "Black," a song about the experience of black people in Britain.

The performance featured new lyrics that accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson of racism and contrasted "how the news treats Kate versus how they treated Meghan," a reference to the wives of Prince William and Prince Harry.

Dave also paid homage to Jack Merritt, a young prisoner-rehabilitation worker who was killed in a knife attack last year by a radicalized ex-inmate he had been helping.

The prime minister's office declined to comment on

Rapper cites Meghan at UK music awards, wins album of year

AP
Dave performs on stage on stage at the Brit Awards 2020 in London, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

Dave's criticism of Johnson.

Accepting the album of the year trophy for his self-reflective "Psychodrama," the 21-year-old rap artist gave a shout out to other young people with big aspirations living in British cities.

"All my young kings and queens that are chasing their dreams, I'm no different from you," he said.

Scottish singer-songwriter Lewis Capaldi also took top prizes during the Tuesday night ceremony at London's

O2 Arena. Capaldi's U.K. and U.S. chart-topper "Someone You Loved" was named song of the year, and Capaldi also won the best new artist prize.

Billie Eilish and Tyler the Creator were among the international winners at the awards. The Brits have been criticized for a dearth of female nominees. Eilish took the award for best international female artist.

The 18-year-old superstar, who won five Grammy Awards last month and has

spoken about mental health struggles, told the audience: "I have felt very hated recently."

"When I was on the stage and I saw you guys all smiling at me it genuinely made me want to cry and I want to cry now," she said.

Eilish performed "No Time to Die," the theme to the next Bond thriller, alongside her brother and co-writer, Finneas O'Connell, composer Hans Zimmer and Johnny Marr, former guitarist for The Smiths.

Jennifer Lawrence to star in Adam McKay comedy for Netflix

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lawrence will star in the Adam McKay comedy "Don't Look Up" for Netflix.

The streaming giant on Wednesday announced that it acquired the the project. McKay, who wrote the script, will direct the film about two low-level astronomers who go on a media tour to warn of an approaching asteroid heading for Earth.

Lawrence has been little seen on the big screen lately, most recently co-starring in last year's "X-Men: Dark

Phoenix." The 29-year-old actress took a roughly two-year hiatus from acting but has recently returned to work. She recently wrapped production on an untitled film for A24 directed by Lila Neugebauer.

"I'm so thrilled to make this movie with Jen Lawrence," McKay said in a statement. "She's what folks in the 17th century used to call 'a dynamite act.' And the fact that Netflix sees this movie as a worldwide comedy sets the bar high for me and my team in an exciting and motivating way."

McKay's most recently movie was 2018's Oscar-nominated "Vice," starring Christian Bale as Dick Cheney.

"Adam has always had great timing when it comes to making smart, relevant and irreverent films that depict our culture," said Scott Stuber, head of film at Netflix. "Even if he somehow ends up predicting planet Earth's imminent demise, we're excited to add this to our slate before it all comes to an end."

Shooting on "Don't Look Up" is set to begin in April.

Label: Rapper Pop Smoke slain in Hollywood Hills shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pop Smoke, a rising Brooklyn rapper who had a breakout year of hit songs and albums that made some of the biggest names in hip-hop his fans and collaborators, was fatally shot during a break-in Wednesday at a Hollywood Hills home, his label said.

"We are devastated by the unexpected and tragic loss of Pop Smoke," said a statement from Republic Records, the label of the 20-year-old whose legal name was Bashar Barakah Jackson. "Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family, friends and fans, as we mourn this loss together."

Los Angeles police did not immediately confirm the identification and have not announced any arrests.

Police officers found a victim shortly before 5 a.m.

after responding to a 911 call from someone who reported intruders, including one armed with a handgun, were breaking in, police Capt. Steve Lurie said.

Public listings show that the home is owned by Edwin Arroyave and his wife Teddi Mellencamp, daughter of Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famer John Mellencamp and a star of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills."

In an Instagram post, Teddi Mellencamp said "we were informed by a 3rd party leasing and management company overseeing a rental home we own in Los Angeles that a shooting had taken place at the property. Foremost, we would like to extend our prayers and condolences to the family and loved ones affected by this tragic loss of life."

Duke and Duchess of Sussex to begin new life on March 31

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, are breaking free of the royal family starting March 31, the couple's office said Wednesday.

The announcement comes as Buckingham Palace reviewed the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's use of the label "Sussex Royal" after their decision to step back from royal duties. Talks involving senior officials are ongoing about the issue and a decision will be announced alongside the launch of their new non-profit organisation.

The royal couple stunned Britain with an abrupt announcement in January that they wanted to step back from royal duties. Prince Harry said he was taking a "leap of faith" in the move in an attempt to build a more peaceful life—one free of the journalists who have filmed, photographed and written about him since the day he was born.

Harry and Meghan will no longer use the titles His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness but will retain them, leaving the possibility that the couple might change their

minds and return sometime in the future.

Harry's late mother, Diana, was stripped of the Her Royal Highness title when she and Prince Charles divorced.

The prince and his wife will walk away from most royal duties, give up public funding and try to become financially independent. The couple, who were named the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on their wedding day, are expected to spend most of their time in Canada while maintaining a home in England, near Windsor Castle.

Daughter plans a wedding without a marriage license

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Heidi," is 39. She is successful, owns her own business and lives with her boyfriend of five years. I'll call him Rick. They have two beautiful boys, 3 and 18 months. She has decided to tie the knot with Rick with a nice, somewhat big wedding.

As Heidi has gotten older, she has been changing into a different person. She has become self-centered and controlling, and she puts Rick down cruelly at times. I think he's a good guy, but maybe just not for her. I really don't know because I stay out of their lives.

What's making me uncomfortable is, my daughter has told only me that she's doing all this wedding stuff without getting an actual marriage license. I don't even know if Rick is aware. I looked this up and saw that some people are now having what's called "commitment ceremonies." When I tried to talk to her about it, she became defensive, cut me off, and then sent me a long, nasty email. So now I just step back.

When I think of the guests (100 to 150), I feel she should be honest and call it what it is. We are presently not communicating because I won't respond to that kind of email. I won't argue with her. But I don't know where to go at this point. I'm worried about her state of mind. She is supposedly seeing a therapist, and a few weeks back I suggested she and Rick get marriage counseling. I would love to hear your thoughts.

TRADITIONAL MOM IN THE EAST

DEAR TRADITIONAL MOM: Your daughter is an adult, and if you refuse to have anything to do with this charade, I would understand. When guests are invited to a "wedding," gifts are expected. If it's a production that's only for show, the couple is committing fraud and taking advantage of the generosity of their guests.

When couples marry, they must first take out a marriage license, which BOTH must sign. No license, no marriage. Unless your daughter's boyfriend is completely clueless, she won't be able to slip this by him. Although people do have commitment ceremonies these days, guests should be told that is what they will be witnessing, and both partners should agree on it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 20 years. It has been a pretty good marriage. I have tolerated a few of his family members' rudeness to me, although I have no problem speaking up when I need to, and my husband always defends me as well.

My father-in-law recently passed, and I adored him. For his wake, my two sisters-in-law made a slide show of his life with hundreds of family photos. There was not one single photo of my father-in-law and me. I feel it was the final straw. I have no more room in my heart and life for them. Am I being too sensitive? My husband hasn't spoken

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



to them since the funeral. I really need your advice on this.
PICTURING IT OVER IN TEXAS

DEAR PICTURING IT: I'm glad you asked. Please accept my sympathy for the loss of someone so close to your heart. But as close as you felt to him, your sisters-in-law had just lost their father. I'm sure they were (and are) grieving and didn't use his death as an opportunity to slight you. I sincerely hope you and your husband won't allow their oversight to cause a permanent rift in the family.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



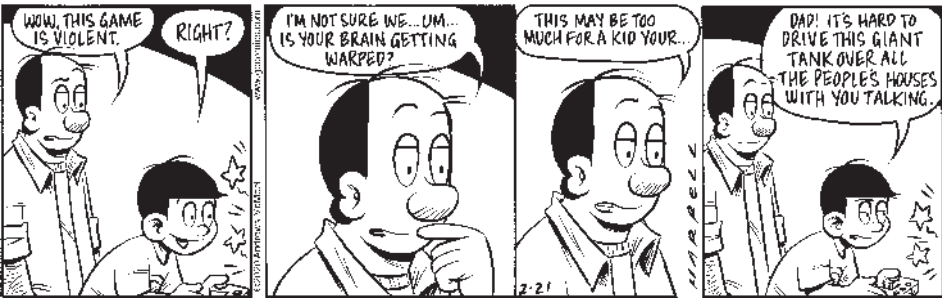
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Swab the decks
4 Sandwich cookie
8 Thailand, once
12 Ecol. watchdog
13 Chicken —
14 Teen's woe
15 Colombo's land
17 Singer Loretta
18 Pancake toppers
19 "— the season ..."
21 Recline
22 President Trump's daughter
26 Boyfriends
29 Coquettish
30 Texas tea
31 They give a hoot
32 Do wrong
33 Vocal quality
34 Aug. follower
35 "Now I get it!"
36 Sides in a turf war

DOWN

1 GI dining hall
2 Grand Ole —
3 Twosome
4 Giraffe
5 Wash off
6 "A mouse!"
7 Enthusiastic applause
8 Music genre of Celia Cruz
9 Glacial
10 Raggedy doll
11 Gents
16 Hum-dingers
20 Wall climber
23 Lunch hour
24 Monarch
25 Pub orders
26 Pear variety
27 Woolly moms
28 Dog food brand
29 "Home-land" org
32 Rug cleaner
33 Hand drums of India
35 Alias abbr.
36 Artful deceptions
38 Recess
39 In a jam
42 Tizzy
43 Furniture brand
44 Like lemons
45 Solidify
46 Actress Hagen
47 Play part
49 Literary collection

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 33; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 41; William Baldwin, 57; Kelsey Grammer, 65.

Happy Birthday: Your inclination to be a dreamer, an entrepreneur and a competitor will help you overcome any emotional discord you face. Embracing challenges and participating to make a difference in this world will attract attention and prepare you for bigger and better opportunities and pursuits. Your fair, amicable approach to helping others will encourage you to reach for the stars. Your numbers are 8, 12, 20, 23, 31, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Before offering help or giving a donation, find out the particulars to ensure your time or money will make a difference. Your interest will be welcome, and the interaction you have with someone you encounter will be beneficial. Personal gain is apparent. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a change or a move for the right reason. If you act impulsively or under emotional stress, you will end up having to backtrack. Don't trust anyone asking for a handout or favor. Concentrate on personal growth and gains. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your own thing to avoid interference. Personal improvements will add confidence and put you in a better position to negotiate. Refuse to let temptation entice you into something you shouldn't do. Moderation and common sense are favored. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for any chance that comes along to improve your surroundings, relationships and future. Use

your intelligence and your imagination to inspire you to try something new. Expand your interests, acquaintances and skills. Listen to good advice. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Clear up debts. Work on a budget or payment plan that is reasonable to avoid ongoing stress. A partnership may experience a setback if you cannot divvy up the responsibilities evenly. Be fair, but not gullible, when negotiating. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make a positive change at home. Discuss your plans with anyone who will be affected by what you do. Get involved in an event or activity that will test your intelligence, and it will encourage you to excel. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone you encounter will have a shared interest. The possibilities you discuss will prompt you to sign up for a course or do the research necessary to achieve your goals. A trip will help you get ahead. Romance is featured. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your imagination take over in order to see where it leads. Don't feel you have to make a hasty decision because someone else does. Bide your time, live in the moment and let things unfold naturally. Learn from your experiences. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A personal change will be good for your emotional attitude as well as help you make better decisions. Say goodbye to those who use unfair tactics to dupe you into things you don't want to do. Focus on personal growth, integrity and love. ****

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do what needs to be done, then move along. Talk to people with more experience or who can offer a different point of view. Looking at a situation from every angle will ensure that you make the wisest decision. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Change can be useful as long as you don't let your emotions impact the choices you make. Look at the big picture, and gather facts before you decide to take on someone or something that can alter your life. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you want the freedom to do as you please, you'll have to give those close to you the same option. Discuss your intentions, and set up a plan that will benefit everyone and encourage better relationships moving forward. ***

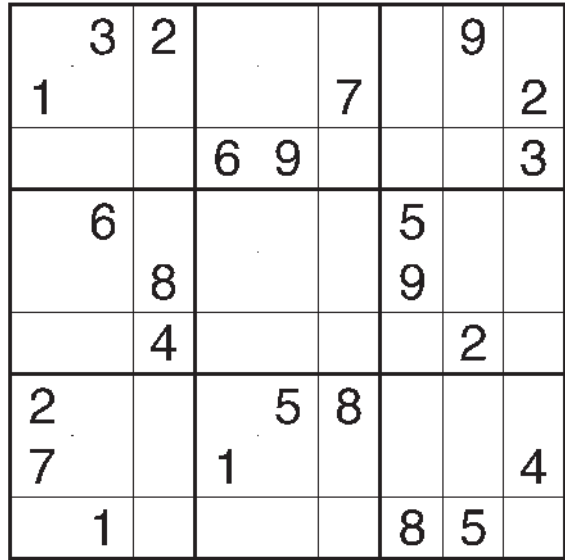
Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, encouraging and helpful. You are dedicated and a crusader.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



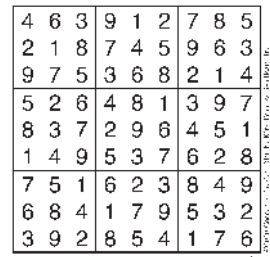
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BIRTH MONTHS Solution: 8 letters



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Player discipline possible for sign-stealing offenses



ATLANTA (AP)—Major league players

could be punished for future sign-stealing violations in the wake of the Houston Astros' scandal that only resulted in discipline for managers, coaches and executives.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and union head Tony Clark both said Tuesday that MLB and the players' association are discussing potential rules changes regarding sign stealing and technology.

"Written proposals have been exchanged, and we have made it clear to MLB that no issue is off the table, including player discipline," Clark said in a statement.

Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were banned for one season by Manfred and subsequently fired by the team last month after MLB released the findings of its investigation into the Astros. Former bench coach Alex Cora is expected to be disciplined when baseball announces the results of its probe into the Boston Red Sox, who cut ties with Cora as manager due to his involvement with Houston's illegal sign stealing in 2017 and 2018.

Carlos Beltran, the only Astros player mentioned in the MLB report, was not disciplined by the league but was let go in his new role as New York Mets manager.

No players were punished by MLB, and opponents from other teams have expressed dismay over that fact since spring training opened last week. Many have also called for Manfred to strip Houston of its 2017 World Series title.

Manfred said he's never seen so much "commentary from players about other players."

The commissioner said Tuesday that MLB reached out to the union seeking player cooperation in the probe after initial investigation efforts were unsuccessful. Manfred said the union asked for player immunity in exchange for that cooperation, and Manfred agreed "because we were at a bit of a stalemate," he said.

Responding to Manfred's comments Tuesday, Clark said MLB contacted the union to inform it of the investigation on Nov. 13, the day after The Athletic published an article detailing Houston's scheme. Clark said the players' association and MLB agreed on player immunity later that day.

"Any suggestion that the association failed to cooperate with the commissioner's investigation, obstructed the investigation, or otherwise took positions which led to a



stalemate in the investigation is completely untrue," Clark said. "We acted to protect the rights of our members, as is our obligation under the law."

Clark said Astros players were never informed of MLB rules regarding technology-

aided sign stealing and noted the commissioner had said after past sign-stealing transgressions years before that club personnel—and not players—would be held responsible for future violations.

He added that among the

items now being discussed with the league are "potential rule changes affecting sign stealing, in-game technology and video, data access and usage, club audits and disclosures, player education, and enforcement -- including

the potential for player discipline."

Meanwhile, the World Series rematch between the Nationals and Astros, who've been embroiled in the fallout from a sign-stealing scandal, that will open the teams' exhi-

AP
Houston Astros outfielder George Springer reaches for a ball after tossing it in the air during spring training baseball practice Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

bition schedule Saturday just got a little more interesting: Max Scherzer will be on the mound.

After his initial batting practice of spring training Wednesday, Scherzer said he's "right on target" and "threw just enough pitches -- just right -- to be able to get back out here in a couple days when the games start up."

When Washington manager Dave Martinez was told that his three-time Cy Young Award winner made clear to reporters he would be starting against Houston, the skipper joked: "Of course. He's doing my job."

Scherzer simulated throwing two innings, each of about 20 pitches, taking a break after facing Adam Eaton, Trea Turner and Starlin Castro in the first go-round. Three other batters

"Can feel the shoulder is a little tired," Scherzer said. "Right where you want it."

So, Max, it's good to feel tired?

"In spring training, you have to put yourself through some fatigue. That's good for you. That's when you know you're pushing the limit in how you're building up," he said.

"Understanding that process of spring training over the years, I know exactly where I need to be," said Scherzer, entering his 13th season in the majors, "and I'm exactly where I need to be."

The key, he explained, is that any soreness be in his right shoulder, as opposed to anywhere else.

"I'm sore in all the right spots. We joke about that during the year—the different spots. You can be sore and that's actually good," Scherzer said. "But when you're sore in a spot where you're not familiar with it, that's when it gets dangerous."

Scherzer went on the injured list twice because of an upper back issue in 2019, making fewer than 30 starts in a year for the first time since his first season in the majors. Then he was scratched from Game 5 of the World Series because of a neck problem before making it back to the mound for Washington's Game 7 win at Houston.

Martinez said Scherzer "looked like Max" out there Wednesday, with no remnants of those health issues.

"The last few (pitches), he really aired out," Martinez said. "And he looked good."

Stanton: I would have hit 80-plus homers if I knew pitches

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—New York Yankees star Giancarlo Stanton imagined having the advantage the Houston Astros gained in their scam.

"If I knew what was coming in '17, I probably would have hit 80-plus home runs," he said Wednesday.

Stanton agreed with teammate Aaron Judge that the Astros should be stripped of their 2017 World Series title and that they kept on cheating during the 2019 season.

Major League Baseball concluded the Astros used a video camera to steal catchers' signs in 2017, including during the postseason, and in 2018.

"They did their investigation and it was clear-cut that they cheated that year, which means it should be taken away," Stanton said. "If you cheat in another way during the season, you can't even be in the playoffs. It's pretty much the same difference."

Houston owner Jim Crane said at a news conference

last week he wasn't sure how much of an advantage the sign stealing was for his team.

Houston beat the Yankees in a seven-game AL Championship Series in 2017, winning all four home games, and defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in a seven-game World Series.

Astros manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for one season each, then were fired by the team. Houston was fined \$5 million and stripped of its next two first- and second-round draft picks.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said Sunday he wasn't 100% sure the Astros didn't violate rules in 2019 but it was his best judgment that they didn't. The Yankees were beat in the ALCS by Houston.

"I don't think you really stop until you get caught in something like that," Stanton said.

Astros players were not disciplined by MLB.

"I don't think the penalties

were harsh enough player-wise," Stanton said. "At the end of the day it gives more incentive to do that if you're not going to punish the players."

Stanton felt the Astros did a "very poor job of bringing their side to it" when they attempted to explain what happened.

"We know that they really don't care to give an apology or explain their side, and it showed by their response," Stanton said. "You know the repercussions of doing something like that. You're really only sorry because you got caught. You have all this whirlwind of which you've got to deal with, not the actual action."

Gerrit Cole, who signed a \$324 million, nine-year free-agent contract with the Yankees after pitching for Houston, has repeatedly said he was unaware of any rule-breaking by the Astros.

"Everybody is entitled to their opinion," Cole said. "It's their own opinion and people handle this the way that they

want to handle it. We're all grown guys around here and I am certainly not going to tell anybody how to think. So, I don't see it as an issue and I'm not personally offended by it. Hopefully, that's the last question that I'll have to answer about it."

Stanton, limited to just 18 games last season due to a variety of injuries that included his knee and quadriceps, said he is fully healthy.

"No limitations," Stanton said. "Just be smart with the workload getting back into it."

Meanwhile, Philadelphia Phillies manager Joe Girardi expects catcher J.T. Realmuto to be back in spring training Thursday and does not believe there will be any fallout from his arbitration hearing in Arizona.

Realmuto, eligible for free agency after this season, asked for a raise from \$6.05 million to \$12.4 million and was offered \$10 million. He and the Phillies may try to negotiate a long-term contract.

NFL playoffs likely to expand to 7 teams



NEW YORK (AP)—A new NFL collective-bargaining agreement could reportedly be approved in the coming weeks. And with it could come a dramatic new playoff structure for the league.

ESPN reported that the new CBA is expected to include a provision for playoff expansion.

Seven teams from each conference would make the playoffs as opposed to the six teams that make the postseason under the current structure. Only the top seed from each conference would receive a first-round bye.

According to the report, both the team owners and players are on board with the proposal.

"That's been agreed to for a long time," a source told ESPN. "There wasn't a lot of disagreement to that issue."

The proposed change would take place immediately for the 2020 season, according to the report.

Owners are also continuing to push for regular-season expansion to a 17-game schedule while shortening the preseason from four games to three according to the report. It's unclear where the NFLPA stands in negotiations on the proposed expanded regular season.

If agreed upon, the 17-game regular season wouldn't apply until 2021, according to the report.

All of this has to be approved as part of the greater CBA, which is still being negotiated and requires approval from both sides. The source expects that deal to be done in time for the new league year that starts on March 18.



AP
San Francisco 49ers' Kendrick Bourne (84) avoids a tackle by Kansas City Chiefs' Charvarius Ward (35), during the second half of the Super Bowl 54 football game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

"The new CBA's not done, there's no term sheet yet, there still are issues being negotiated, but I'd be very surprised if there's not a new CBA for the new league year," the source said.

Had the proposed new rules applied this season, the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens would have been the only teams with first-round byes.

The Green Bay Packers and Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs would have been relegated to wild-card weekend as No. 2 seeds.

The Los Angeles Rams would have made the playoffs as the No. 7 seed and played the Packers in the first round of the NFC playoffs. The Pitts-

burgh Steelers would have been the AFC's No. 7 seed and the first-round opponent for the Chiefs.

The additional matchups would mean six playoff games on the NFL's wild-card weekend instead of four, with presumably three on Saturday and three on Sunday.

The divisional round would then proceed as normal with four teams advancing from each conference.

NFL owners will meet Thursday in Manhattan to discuss ongoing negotiations with the players' association about a new collective bargaining agreement.

Recent talks have brought

both sides closer to a potential agreement a year before the current 10-year deal expires. Having the 32 team owners together for a previously unscheduled forum—the next scheduled owners meeting is not until the end of March in Florida—appears to be a sign of substantial progress.

Although there would seem to be plenty of time to get a new deal done, the NFL's business season starts March 18, when free agency begins. Getting a CBA before then would allow the league to turn attention to further broadcast and digital contracts and international initiatives.

The NFL Players Asso-

ciation has scheduled a conference call for Friday. The combine is next week in Indianapolis, where both sides conceivably could continue talks or, for the brightest optimists, secure an agreement.

The current deal was reached in the summer of 2011 after a lockout that began in mid-March. No games were lost except the Hall of Fame's preseason opener.

Meanwhile, the Washington Redskins exercised Adrian Peterson's 2020 option Wednesday, keeping the veteran running back in the fold for another season.

Peterson returns to Washington for a third season and first

under new coach Ron Rivera. It'll be his 14th NFL season.

"Adrian Peterson is the epitome of what it means to be a pro in this league," Rivera said. "Adrian's leadership and passion towards the game of football will set an example of what is expected of the players in this program moving forward."

Peterson, who turns 35 in March, was the Redskins' leading rusher last season with 898 yards and five touchdowns on 211 carries. He currently ranks fifth on the NFL's career rushing list with 14,216 yards and is less than 1,100 from catching Barry Sanders for fourth.



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Devonte Graham had mixed emotions when Kemba Walker left for the Boston Celtics.

Walker had become his mentor on the court last year and a close friend off it, regularly inviting Graham over to his house for a meal cooked by his personal chef. Walker would let the rookie swim in his pool and lend him his car occasionally, too.

But while he knew he'd miss hanging out with his buddy, Graham realized that Walker's departure meant he'd see increased playing time—and have a chance to prove to everyone that he belongs in the NBA.

Graham has done just that.

The Charlotte Hornets' second-year guard is averaging 18.1 points and 7.8 assists while playing 35 minutes per game entering Thursday

Hornets' Graham emerging as Most Improved Player candidate

night's game at Chicago. He is fifth in the league in 3-pointers made (190).

That's a dramatic improvement over last year's rookie season, when Graham averaged 4.7 points and 2.6 assists in 14 minutes per game playing behind Walker and NBA veteran Tony Parker, all the while splitting time between the Hornets and their G League affiliate in Greensboro.

"Nobody expected Devonte to be as good as he's been this year -- not even Devonte," Hornets owner Michael Jordan told The Associated Press. "I think he believed he was better than he was the year before, but I think he's come out and shocked everybody in terms of the way he played."

Graham's prep school teammate Donovan Mitchell said Graham deserves to be the league's Most Improved Player.

Graham is certainly in the conversation, along with New Orleans' Brandon Ingram, Miami's Bam Adebayo, Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and others. But Graham's 13.4 points per game scoring improvement over last season far outdistances anyone else.

"That is the Devonte I have known all of my life," Mitchell said. "He steps up once the lights come on. He makes tough plays. I'm so happy for him. For him to do what he's doing, it's really unmatched. A lot of people didn't really know who he was before this season."

Toronto's Nick Nurse coaches Pascal Siakam, who won the award last year, and said he sees similar traits in Graham.

He's been impressed with Graham's consistency over the course of the season.

"Just like we talked about with Pascal, it's hard to be a consistent performer in this league," Nurse said. "To go from off the bench to consistently doing it every night is a really big leap, maybe a bigger leap than people think it is. We were keeping an eye on Pascal last season, wondering was this for real and was he going to be able to sustain this throughout the season? Was he able to bounce back from a tough night? Obviously, Pascal did. And Devonte is showing a lot of the same qualities." Graham has surprised even himself a little.

He laughed when thinking back to a game in December when he scored 40 points in a victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

"I don't know what happened there," Graham said with a wide smile.

Outside of a mild slump

before the All-Star break, Graham has remained fairly consistent despite seeing increased attention from defenses that know the Hornets don't have a lot of other scoring options. His 16 points/assists double-doubles are seventh most in the NBA this season.

But Hornets coach James Borrego has been most impressed with Graham's 3-point shooting.

"The volume of 3s he has taken and made is huge—that's extreme," Borrego said. "The off-the-dribble shooting is elite, which is tough to do. We saw Kemba develop that over the last few years here, but he didn't have that earlier in his career. Devonte has been able to do that in his second year."

Graham began the season as a reserve but quickly emerged as the team's top scoring

threat, and Borrego quickly moved him into the starting lineup alongside Terry Rozier, who was pegged as Walker's replacement. He's been asked to play on and off the ball, similar to what he did in the same backcourt with Frank Mason at the University of Kansas.

Now Graham has emerged as a player that the Hornets feel they can build a franchise around.

But Jordan said Graham must continue to strive for greatness.

"I think he is starting to realize now that when defenses gear up against him, he's going to have to continue to improve," Jordan said. "I think he has done a good job of excelling and his hard work this summer has paid off. Like any great player, you can't stop. You have to keep improving and getting better. And he will get better. He's done an unbelievable job to this point."

Virus limits next Olympic test event to Japanese-only

TOKYO (AP)—A test event for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled for later this month that would have involved some non-Japanese athletes is being revamped because of fear of the spreading virus from China.

It's now limited to only Japanese athletes with the Olympics just over five months away.

The two-day test event opens at the new Ariake Arena on Feb. 28 and is relatively obscure—a Paralympic test for boccia, a precision ball sport similar to bocce and related to lawn bowling. It's the first of 19 remaining test events before the Olympics are to open on July 24.

They will be watched closely, as will the start of the torch relay on March 26 in Fukushima, a prefecture devastated nine years ago by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

The test events may reveal what effect the spreading virus is having on Olympic preparations, and the ability of non-Japanese athletes to safely enter Japan.

They could also shine a spotlight on Chinese athletes and serve as a reminder that the next Olympics—the Winter Olympics—are in Beijing in 2022.

The deaths in Japan of three Japanese have been attributed to the fast-spreading virus. The viral outbreak has infected more than 75,000 people globally and has been attributed to over 2,000 deaths in China.

“Obviously, that (test event) is going to be modified, but the test event will go ahead,” Tokyo spokesman Masa Takaya told The Associated Press.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have repeated the same message for weeks: there are no plans to cancel or postpone the Olympics. This has only happened during wartime. The Olympics in 1980 and 1984 were held despite boycotts.

In a statement by Tokyo 2020, it quoted the Japan Para Sports Association saying “the JPSA has concluded that further time is necessary to fully analyze the potential impacts that the virus might have on athletes.”

Takaya said the next tests that are scheduled to have an international field include a wheelchair rugby test on March 12-15, and gymnastics test events on April 4-6. The gymnastics events are partly organized by FIG, the world governing body of gymnastics, the Japan Gymnastics Association, and local organizers.

Takaya said there were no plans to postpone or cancel any test events.

“No, no, no, no, never,” he said.

However, he could not guarantee that non-Japanese athletes would take part in the wheelchair and gymnastics events. It's possible they might go ahead, as boccia has, with only non-Japanese.

“We still don't which athletes are competing,” Takaya

said. “When it's the most appropriate time, we will release the participants information.” His response was the same about all other test events. The last is scheduled to end May 6. Olympic qualifiers and dozens of sports events across Asia have been postponed or called off, including the indoor world track and field championships in Nanjing, China, and the Formula One race in April in Shanghai. Japan's



A man wearing a mask takes pictures of the mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, in Tokyo. AP

invested billions of dollars in the Olympics. Almost three-quarters of the IOC income of \$5.7 billion over a four-year Olympic cycle is from broadcasting rights.

A Japanese virologist, speaking Wednesday, said if the Olympics were tomorrow—they could not be held.

“I think it may be difficult to have the Olympics (now),” Dr. Hitoshi Oshitani, a virologist from Tohoku

University Graduate School of Medicine, said. “But by the end of July we may be in a different situation.”

Oshitani said he was most concerned about a “Wuhan-type” of outbreak taking place in Africa or other parts of Asia and having cases imported into Japan. He said if that happened “it may get difficult to have” the Olympics. But he also suggested Japan might be able to handle it.

SWEEP

From Page 32

island competing).

“I didn't achieve this by myself. My family, coaches, and friends helped me,” the 19-year-old said.

Schorr personally received all his Male Student Athlete of the Year awards (four) and he is happy to make it back-to-back before he moves up to the collegiate ranks.

“I'm super happy to again be picked to receive this award. It's an honor to win this award and represent the CNMI off island,” said Schorr, who will play for William Woods.

“This award is just as special as the other ones and it is a motivation for me to keep on working and playing hard,” the Saipan International School senior said.

'Close to my heart'

Sinclair could not make it to the awards ceremony, as he is in Florida competing in a pro tournament, but he sent a video to NMSA to thank everyone who helped him reach a lot of milestones.

“I am humbled to be selected for this award because I know there are many great athletes on Saipan. This award is special. It's close to my heart because my mom (Kathryn/2001) won the same trophy, which we still have in our home,” Sinclair said.



From left, Lydia Tan, Malika Miyawaki, Carol Lee, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Jeff Race gather for a group photo after receiving the Team of the Year award during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet held last Wednesday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A picture of Colin Sinclair is shown on stage as he was named 2019 Male Athlete of the Year during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet held last Wednesday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

He also shared the award to his teammates, Race, and Lydia Tan.

“Big thanks to Jeff for getting me started with my tennis journey and helping me with my pro career. You are doing a great work on Saipan, getting many kids to play tennis,” Sinclair added.



NMSA

From Page 32

Pacific Swimming Pool and discussed the re-opening of the facility the soonest possible time. The only Olympic-sized pool in the CNMI has been closed since Sept. 30, 2018, leaving hundred of swimmers without a proper training and competitive venue for more than a year. A day after the NMSA board met with Torres and company draining of the pool has started and work to re-open the facility is ongoing.

“Our swimmers deserved an appropriate facility and we will continue to work with different government agencies and the private sector in the next few months so we can re-open the pool,” Tan announced, drawing a loud cheer from the crowd.

Besides the planned re-opening of the 50-meter pool, some significant improvements have also taken place at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The new NMSA head, meanwhile, said they will keep reaching out to interna-

Nelson, Ayuyu inducted into CNMI Sports Hall of Fame

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



After playing for rival teams and getting involved in a "hitting" incident, Chris Nelson and Jerry Ayuyu found themselves sharing the same stage last Wednesday night, as they were inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

Nelson and Ayuyu led the Class of 2020 inductees that also included athletics official Louie Wabol and basketball coach Rufino Aguon and they were honored during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Ayuyu was recognized for being a multi-sports athlete, as he won individual and team awards in baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball. Nelson, on the other hand, was enshrined into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame, for his impressive performance in baseball although he also played for the CNMI national teams in volleyball and soccer.

Nelson played pitcher for the UMDA Aces and once faced Ayuyu's Seabees in a championship game in the 1990s. In that finals match, Ayuyu was hit by Nelson's pitch and though that incident created some tension in the title duel,



the two athletes considered the situation as part of a game.

"We were both competitive players so you just move on after that. I have so much respect for Chris and he really elevated the pitching level in the CNMI when he came," said Ayuyu, who thanked his family, friends, teammates, and coaches for giving him the opportunity to play many sports.

For his part, Nelson said he was honored to play against Ayuyu and other notable baseball players in the Commonwealth. He also cherished the

time he represented the CNMI in regional and international competitions and met a lot of good friends in sports and in the community after moving from Florida.

Nelson also looked back at the hit-by-pitch incident with Ayuyu.

"It was never done on purpose. I hit a lot of batters back in the days, but not incidentally. I just like to establish the inside part of the plate as some kind of my territory," Nelson said.

KSPN news and sports director Bob Coldeen, who has been covering sports in the Commonwealth for decades,

presented a collection of photos of Ayuyu and Nelson and

interviewed some of their coaches, proving the two ath-



Ermitanio is Amigos February Ace



Frank Ermitanio won the Amigos Golf Club February Ace of the Month Tournament after he finished with a two-round net score of 140.

The 15-handicapper shot a gross of 85 on the first round last Feb. 2 at the Kingfisher Golf Links for a net score of 70.

On Round 2 last Feb. 16 at the same Talafofo golf course, Ermitanio fired an identical gross of 85 for another net 70 that gave him the score to beat in the tournament.

Ben Jones Jr. finished second with his 141, built around a gross of 90 in the first round and a gross 77 in the second. With his handicap of 13, Jones wound up with a 77 and 64 net on both days for a total of 141.

Third place went to Joe Torres after he came away with a total of net 142. The 16-handicapper shot a gross 91 and a gross 83 in the first and second round, respectively, for net scores of 75 and 63.

A total of 45 players took part in the qualifying and ace rounds of the Amigos Golf Club February Ace of the Month Tournament. The club would like to thank Kingfisher Golf Links for donating prizes for the competition. (Mark Rabago)

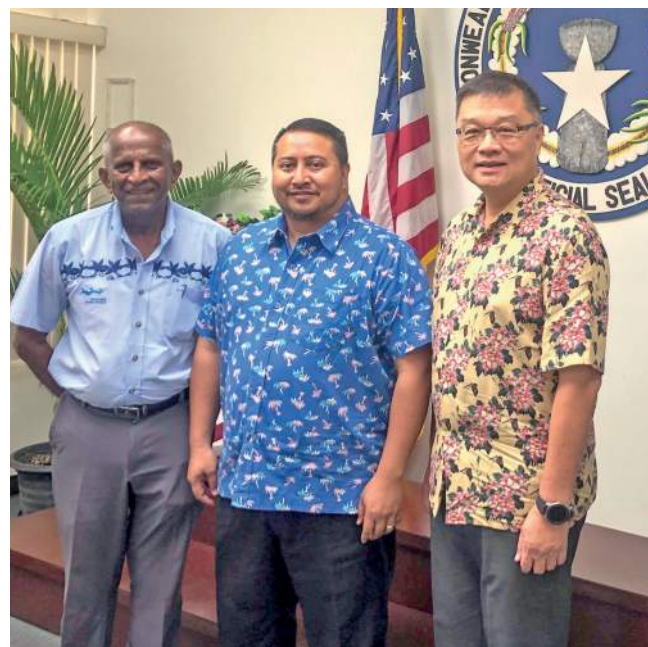


Torres reaffirms commitment to '21 Mini Games

Gov. Ralph DeLeon Torres reiterated the government's support to the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Micronesian Games in front of athletes, officials, and guests at the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet last Wednesday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

"In partnership with NMSA, the CNMI government remains committed to hosting the Mini Games and welcoming athletes from all over the Pacific to our beautiful island to showcase their skills and abilities. My priority is to also make sure our athletes have an opportunity to represent the CNMI proudly next year on our home field," said Torres, who delivered the opening remarks in the event that honored that top athletes and officials of the Commonwealth.

Torres was among the special guests at the NMSA Banquet and joining him were his wife, Diann, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, Guam National Olympic Committee officials Robert Steffy and Joey Miranda, Pacific Games Council



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is flanked by Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan, left, and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan after meeting at the Governor's Office in Capitol Hill to discuss the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

president Vidya Lakhan, and PGC chief executive officer Andrew Minogue.

The governor along with the NMSA board, led by its president Jerry Tan, met with the PGC officials last Wednesday morning to dis-

cuss developments in the CNMI's preparation for the hosting of the Mini Games next year, including the improvement of various facilities that will be used for the quadrennial competition.

"We had a productive meet-

Chris Nelson, left, and Jerry Ayuyu are all smiles as they are enshrined into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet held last Wednesday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

letes truly deserved to be in the elite group of CNMI athletes and officials.

Meanwhile, Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president Lawrence Camacho and Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong received the Hall of Fame awards on behalf of Aguon and Wabol, who are off-island.

Wabol used to coach the track and field team of Hopwood Middle School and helped run athletics events in the CNMI. Aguon coached the CNMI Men's Basketball Team on several occasions with the last time at the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

ing this morning (last Wednesday) to discuss planning for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games here on Saipan. NMSA and our administration already have a strong partnership as more and more people are at the Oleai track and field, exercising because we installed additional lights. We've also put in federal grant applications through FEMA and EDA to build stronger sports facilities, including re-opening our pool for our NMI swimmers," Torres said.

"NMSA and I share the same goal for a more active CNMI with the Oleai Sports Complex and Ada Gym (Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium) filled with athletes achieving their dreams. Sports is a celebration of human achievement. It motivates us to better ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually. It helps us build a stronger Marianas. Together with NMSA and our athletes and coaches here tonight, I look forward to achieving our goals of revitalizing our sports here in the CNMI. We have big plans in the works, and I'm excited for the future," the governor added. (Saipan Tribune)



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sweep for tennis team



Schorr



Lee



Race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

“This is tennis’ year,” CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race said. Indeed.

The CNMI National Team won the major awards in the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet held last Wednesday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Robbie Schorr and Carol Lee took the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Student Athletes of the Year plums, Colin Sinclair was named Male Athlete of the Year, Race got the Coach of the Year trophy, and the squad that handed the CNMI three gold medals and one silver from the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa was honored as Team of the Year. Athletes Ken Song, Tania Tan, Isabel Heras, and Malika Miyawaki and assistant coach Lydia Tan are the other members of the CNMI National Tennis Team.

“It’s tennis’ year not just because of these awards, but in so many ways. There’s Carol’s success in ITF Juniors, as she

became the first CNMI player to compete in the U.S. Open and the Australian Open (juniors), then Colin winning his first pro title in ATP and also dominating the Pacific Games. Also, after 30 years of coaching and many times competing, we finally won medals in the Pacific Games,” Race said.

The long-time CNMI tennis official won his record fourth Coach of the Year plum (2019, 2017, 2012, 2007).

“This one is very special because I did it by helping our team prevail in the Pacific Games.

Send-off gifts

Last Wednesday’s recognition is also memorable for both Lee and Schorr because they received the award reserved for student-athletes in their last year in high school. The two tennis players will be off to college this fall and will continue to play after receiv-

ing athletic scholarships from their respective schools.

“It is very special for me to get this award as this will be

my last time,” said Lee, who committed to play for NCAA Division I’s Georgia Tech.

Lee won the award a re-

cord fifth time (tying track star Jacque Wonenberg’s mark) and it was the first time she personally received the trophy

after missing the banquet in 2017 and 2018 (she was off-

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NMSA focuses on stronger partnership with stakeholders



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Sports Association board, led by its president Jerry Tan, fifth left, poses for a photo with visiting sports officials from Guam and Fiji before attending the NMSA Banquet held last Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort Spa & Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association board is looking at strengthening its partnership with the government, private sector, inter-

national federations, and the community in a bid to deliver what’s best for CNMI sports.

NMSA president Jerry Tan, during his speech at the NMSA Banquet last Wednesday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa

Saipan, identified the four groups as the board works on improving facilities in the CNMI, getting more people, especially the youth, involved in sports, and providing opportunities for both athletes and officials.

NMSA got off to a good start as early this month the board met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several officials of key government agencies at the former Kan

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